DUDLEY
CHRONICLE

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ON THE RUN

Blind Dave joins 10k race for charity

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NIGHT OUT

Black Country food and fun at museum

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NEW CAR PARK IS ON THE WAY

A MULTI-STOREY car park creating hundreds of new spaces in Dudley town centre has moved a step closer with ground surveys at the site.

But where the cash will come from to pay for the £2.5million project for Tower Street in Dudley remains unclear as finance bosses at the cash-strapped council try to avoid taking out a loan for the huge project.

By Alex Ross

Earlier this year the council announced it was moving forward with plans for the scheme — first unveiled two years ago — following repeated calls from Dudley traders for more parking in the heart of the town.

It now seems unlikely that work will begin on the car park before 2016.

Fund

Work on ground surveys has taken place at the site as the council continues to put together a planning application for the project.

Officers are also applying for money to a growth fund to pay for the car park.

If the bid is unsuccessful the council will have to look to take out a loan to fund the scheme.

Dudley's transport boss Councillor Khurshid Ahmed said the parking was a justified investment to support the town centre's ongoing regeneration.

He said: "A business plan is being put together and a couple of options are being looked at to fund the scheme.

"An application has been made for money from a growth fund. I'd rather we had the grant than taking out a loan, of course."

The car park will include between 200 and 250 bays.

Plans have been changed to move the development back from the street to leave a new open space that could be used by traders.

Councillor Ahmed said: "We are doing the ground survey and plans are now being drawn up for a formal planning application asking for approval for the scheme.

"However, it is not likely work will begin building the car park until 2016."

He added: "The car park is needed. If you look at Flood Street car park, most of it is not used. But if people can leave their car right in the centre of town, I believe that will bring more people in.

"This is about attracting business to support the town economy."

The car park would operate on a pay and display basis.

The plans for the car park move forward as the council continues work on a new £6 million market place in the town centre.

There are also plans for a new supermarket and other improvements to the historic town centre.

Meanwhile, the multi-million-pound revamp of Dudley's historic market place faces delays after hitting 'unforeseen problems'.

● Revamp facing delays — see page 4

Bingo booster for children's charity

Eyes down — fundraisers get ready for the bingo bonanza in aid of Acorns Hospices across the Midlands

IT'LL be 'eyes down' when fundraisers hold a bingo night to generate cash for a children's hospice.

The group are hoping for a full house when they join together for an evening at Mecca Bingo in Oldbury in October in aid of Acorns Children's Hospice.

Claire Groom, aged 37, from Kingswinford is a founding member of the fundraising group based in Walsall. Her daughter Isla was born with Edwards Syndrome, a genetic condition that disrupts a baby's normal course of development. She died in December 2012 aged 22 months.

Isla received care at the Walsall hospice and now her mother is appealing for people to show their support for the charity. Claire said: "We know only too well of the wonderful work that Acorns does and that's why I joined and help to set up the fundraising group."We need people to come along to enjoy a fun night of bingo and to help raise vital funds."

The bingo night is the group's inaugural event which they hope will prove successful and kick-start a fundraising drive. Tickets are now on sale for the event.

Community fundraising manager for the Black Country Sally Insley said: "This is the first event for the fundraising group so we are hoping lots of people will turn out and support us – and potentially win big prizes."

It takes place at Mecca Bingo on Thursday, October 2 , at 6.30pm. Tickets cost £10 including bingo books and are available from Acorns Walsall. For more information or to join the fundraising group or email sally.insley@acorns.org.uk or call 07972 774228.

Acorns offers care and support to children and their families at its hospices in Selly Oak, Walsall and Worcester, and through support at home.

Rider was killed in 80mph accident

A MOTORCYCLIST died when his bike collided with a car while driving at speeds of up to 80mph, an inquest heard.

Martin Brown of Flavell Avenue in Coseley, was riding on Birmingham New Road when he crashed into a Fiat Panda. He died at Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham.

The black Suzuki 1000cc Gsxr sports bike was travelling at twice the 40mph speed limit and he struggled to brake as the driver of a Fiat Panda turned right at the junction of Vicarage Road.

Investigator Pc Paul Hopley said the bike was 'extensively damaged' due to the impact of the collision. Giving evidence at Walsall Coroners Court, he said: "The Fiat Panda driver failed to spot the bike as he turned right, who was travelling twice the 40mph speed limit. Had he been travelling at the correct speed it is likely the collision would not have happened."

Senior Black Country coroner Robin Balmain concluded Mr Brown died as a result of a road traffic collision. He said: "This is very sad. The prime factor in Mr Brown's death was the speed at which he was travelling because it was not remotely safe for the area."

Tribute to dead sister

THE brother of a 48-year-old woman found dead in a Smethwick street has spoken of his family's heartache.

Police launched a murder investigation following the discovery of Glynis Bensley in Cheshire Road last week.

Her brother Adrian Bensley said: "We cannot believe that anyone would want to cause harm to our lovely sister."

A 14-year-old boy was arrested in connection with her death and been released on bail.

MP puts future of pub in the spotlight

A BREWERY has been called to a meeting with campaigners by an MP over plans to close a popular Sedgley pub and turn it into a supermarket

Dudley North MP Ian Austin has invited Marston's and Morrisons to meet the people trying to save the Severn Stars pub in Gospel End Road.

Commons

Morrisons announced that it wanted to convert the pub into a food store.

Speaking in the House of Commons, Mr Austin called on ministers to support talks between the owner, supermarket chain and campaigners. He said: "The popular, successful and profitable Seven Stars in Sedgley is threatened with closure because Marston's and Morrisons are discussing turning it into a supermarket

"Does the Secretary of State agree with me that they ought to accept my invitation to meet local residents concerned about the loss of the pub and the impact this would have on traffic, parking and businesses in the nearby town centre? And is it possible to introduce tougher rules so planning permission is always required before a pub is demolished or converted?"

Assault on farmer, 70

A 70-year-old farmer suffered a broken arm and nose — and it is feared he may lose an eye — after being attacked by an intruder.

The man heard a noise at Lapal Farm near Halesowen and went out to investigate at 5am on Monday, confronting a man outside the Illey Lane premises.

The farmer was struck over the head several times with his own walking stick. The attacker is described as a stocky white man aged in his early 40s.

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Meeting to air views on bus changes

TRANSPORT bosses have promised to host a public meeting to discuss controversial changes to bus services across Dudley and Sandwell.

Bus passengers say they are facing upheaval after changes in a dozen services including routes to and from the Merry Hill shopping centre.

National Express West Midlands has revised services in parts of Dudley and Sandwell. Some passengers claim the changes were not adequately communicated

Petition

Hundreds of residents in Halesowen, Blackheath, Cradley Heath and Old Hill signed a petition after the axing of the 297 and 205 services left them without a direct route to Russells Hall Hospital.

The meeting, which is being organised by Labour's Parliamentary Candidate for Halesowen and Rowley Regis, Stephanie Peacock, is being held at Our Lady of Lourdes Church on Old Hill High Street at 6pm on Tuesday, September 16.

National Express have confirmed a representative will attend.

Spokesman, Jack Kelly, said: ""This meeting will allow us to discuss how the recent review has affected local resident and explain in person how changing local travel patterns have required us to alter some routes."

"However, it is important to stress that I can make no guarantees on service changes on the day and that many of the changed routes are now much more reliable than prior to the changes."

Disqualified driver is put back behind bars

A PROLIFIC offender was back behind bars after his ninth conviction for driving while disqualified — despite never having had a driving licence.

Shane O'Rourke, 26, ran a red light at a busy junction in Brierley Hill after he was spotted by plain clothes police behind the wheel of a Vauxhall Zafira on May 28, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

Miss Alka Brigue, prosecuting, said: "The officers recognised him as a disqualified driver. He was frantically trying to change gear to get away after realising who they were."

Reversed

The car reversed at speed, swung onto the wrong side of the road and went through the busy junction of Moor Street and High Street, when the traffic lights were on red.

O'Rourke, who had a total of 33 previous convictions, was arrested two days later.

Mr Simon Hanns, defending, said: "He was on his way to sell it when seen by the officers. He has not passed a driving test, never had a legitimate licence and takes a pragmatic approach to the sentence he can expect."

O'Rourke, of Blackacre Road, Dudley, pleaded guilty to dangerous driving, driving while disqualified and having no insurance.

He was jailed for six months with a two year driving ban by Judge Mark Eades who told him: "Here we are again.This has become a routine for you. You go to prison, do your spell of time, come out, get caught driving while disqualified and go to prison again. Hopefully one day you will grow up and think a bit more about the risks of your behaviour to other people.

"You should be ashamed of yourself but I suspect you are not."

Vikings got beady eyes on museum

VIKINGS will be invading Broadfield House Glass Museum in Kingswinford as part of National Heritage Open Day on Saturday.

The Svartgard Living History Society will be attending the event in full Viking costume and putting on an array of displays including arts and crafts in the garden.

They will be exhibiting various textile crafts as well as an armoury display and arrow making. Also present will be a fur and spice traders, a fisherman, a basket weaver and a metal worker.

Tillerman Beads will be demonstrating glass making at the event, also in full Viking costume, with a wide selection of glass beads for sale. They will be speaking about the art of bead making in times gone by.

People can ask questions and handle the tools and armour or enjoy a game of Hnefatafl, a Viking board game. The group will also be putting on displays of fighting for the crowds. There will also be a children's craft fair where children can make their own helmets, where a small charge will apply.

The event is from 10am to 4pm and is free.

Hospital volunteer retires

Tony Smith with Gwen Timmins MBE and nurses from the ward at Russells Hall

A HOSPITAL volunteer who has helped raise more than £100,000 for a ward has retired following 13 years of service.

Tony Smith was initially admitted to hospital suffering severe back injuries in an accident at work. After seven years of treatment at the pain relief ward he began fundraising and set up the Support Group for Pain Relief with fellow patient Gwen Timmins. The group ran fundraising stalls at fairs in the region until the ward moved to Russells Hall Hospital in Dudley where sales are held in the hospital reception.

Over the past 13 years the group has raised a total £107,000.

But last week Mr Smith, aged 66, from Halesowen, had to step down due to increasing chronic pain.

The group will continue under the management of Mrs Timmins, aged 71, who was awarded an MBE for her work supporting hospitals. She said: "Tony has done a great job and will be missed."

Mr Smith said: "I'm sad to be leaving, but the pain has got so bad I'm struggling to make it to the hospital on a regular basis."

Victim is taking his first steps in hospital

A YOUNG man who was knocked down in a hit-and-run has been able to take his first steps after the accident, his family have revealed.

Lewis Yale, aged 22, is concious following the accident in Dudley Road East, Tividale, near Oldbury, in the early hours of August 31

He remained in Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital with a close relative saying he will have an operation to treat his facial fractures.

Investigations are continuing into the circumstances of the incident which happened at around midnight.

Mr Yale was found seriously injured in a road after being struck by a car, possibly a silver Ford Fiesta, moments after getting off a bus on his way back home from work.

Officers revealed that other motorists drove round him as he lay injured in the street, until an off-duty poice officer came to his aid.

One close relative, who asked not to be named, said: "He has been able to take a little walk, so he is improving. He has done really well so far but he has still got to have a further operation on his face and nose."

Anyone with information is asked to call the police on 101.

Cricketers in charity boost

TWO teams of cricketers raised money for a charity supporting children in Eastern Europe following a recent friendly match.

Dudley Patels took on a team of fathers from Stourbridge Cricket Club.

The event, which included a barbecue and a raffle, raised £505 for the Kinver and Wolverhampton branch of the Chernobyl Children's Life Line.

The charity brings children living with the health implications of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster that hit Ukraine and Belarus to the UK on four-week holidays.

Health agenda

HEALTH bosses will hold a board meeting this afternoon and are inviting the public to attend.

Board members of Dudley Clinical Commission Group will meet at the Brierley Hill Health and Social Care Centre, in Venture Way, on Thursday from 1pm to 4pm.

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Public help in bid to track down dog killer

AN APPEAL launched after a dog was found hanged outside a primary school has had a 'good response' with officers at the RSPCA working on several lines of enquiry.

The male Staffie Mastiff cross dog was discovered dead close to Kates Hill Primary School in Dudley four weeks ago.

The dog's death sparked outrage in the community, with several people offering rewards for information, including Dudley North MP Ian Austin and a millionaire businessman.

RSPCA spokesman Andy Robbins said no-one had yet been arrested but they were working on a number of lines of enquiry.

He said: "There is not much which can be said publicly as the investigation is ongoing. We did have a number of calls from the public with information and we are grateful. There has been a good response."

The RSPCA is investigating with West Midlands Police.

A passer-by found the animal tied to a railing 15ft above street level in Bishop Close, in the early hours of June 28. The dog, which was estimated to be between one and two-years-old, was not micro-chipped.

1,000 apply for 30 jobs

MORE than 1,000 people applied for just 30 jobs at a new store opening at Merry Hill. The combined Simply Be and Jacamo shop will open at the Brierley Hill centre later this month.

Bossesrevealed they had received an 'overwhelming' number of applications for the positions.

Deputy store manager, Sarah Fisher, said: "The standard of applicants was incredibly high but I'm confident that we've found the right people for the store.

"We have recruited a great bunch of people from the local community."

Furniture fire

DAMAGE was caused to two houses after furniture piled up in a passage between the properties caught light.

Firefighters said it is believed that the fire in Birmingham New Road, Tividale, on Thursday evening had been started by a discarded cigarette.

Landmark church is forced to close down

St Luke's Church, High Street, Cradley Heath

A CHURCH in Cradley Heath which has been part of the community since early Victorian times is to close due to costs.

A repair bill of £750,000 is forcing the closure of St Luke's after almost 170 years of worship. The congregation of the church at High Street will move to St John's Church in Dudley Wood after a final service on next month. The Rev Alicia Baker said work was needed to make the church 'useable' including replacing the roof. Church leaders decided they couldn't afford the work.

She said: "Because of the huge cost of repairs to the building, approximately £750,000, it's time for the congregation to move on. The church council decided that the building was becoming in such a bad state of repair that it was going to become unusable.

"The congregation was diminishing in size and we weren't managing to pay our bills. We had to pay at the time £12,000 to the diocese every year, and we weren't managing to pay that. It's sad for people that the church is closing but at least there will be a building on the High Street to be used by the community."

"Over recent years we have joined together for worship and social events (at St John's) as well as fundraising and community work, so the pain of leaving our beloved building will be lessened knowing that we have a welcoming place waiting for us. It also means that weddings, baptisms and funerals will now take place at St John's."

An open day is held at St Luke's on Saturday, September 20, from 10am to 4pm for anyone who would like to have a last look. Bishop of Dudley, the Right Rev Graham Usher, will lead the final act of worship at 10.30am on October 19 and there will be a procession from St Luke's to St John's.

Blueprint for the future of borough is on show

RESIDENTS and businesses can have their say on multi-million pound blueprint to shape the future of the Dudley borough during a series of consultation events.

The document will be used to guide future developmentssuch as new homes, schools, businesses and leisure facilities during the next 20 years.

It is used by developers and planners to identity potential sites for regeneration.

The blueprint contains proposals for 16,127 homes in the borough by 2026 to help tackle the housing shortage. Officers have identified space for a further 10,971 homes, including 1,037 in Stourbridge, Halesowen and Dudley town centres. A total of 1,511 homes has been allocated for Stourbridge and Brierley Hill.

The main focus for be housing on former industrial land and educational sites along the canal network and close to the town centres. The Longlands Campus could hold 34 homes, the former Lloyds foundry in Brettell Lane could be turned into an estate for 80 and the former Stuart Crystal Works in Wordsley could provide 72. The site of Coseley Baths could be used for 20 homes.

The document also includes plans to double the size of a travellers' camp in Wall Heath to help the council meet a legal requirement for provision, expanding Holbeache Lane in Wall Heath to eight pitches.

People can view the blueprint at Lye Business Centre today from 9am to noon on and finally at Dudley Court South at the Waterfront from 1pm to 4pm tomorrow, Friday. The document can be viewed at www.dudley.gov.uk/LDP or at main Dudley libraries and Dudley Council Plus.

Flats and store plan for 'eyesore'

A FIRE-GUTTED pub in Dudley which has been branded an eyesore could be knocked down to make way for a shop and six flats.

The Hill Tavern in Watsons Green Road has been targeted by vandals since it closed four years ago. Plans have now been lodged to demolish the pub and replace with a convenience store on the ground floor and flats above. The developer said the building was beyond repair. Proposals have been submitted to Dudley Council for a mix one and two bedroom flats.

Agent Barron Virgo, from Great Barr-based Integrated Designs & Associates, said: "The building has become an eyesore and beyond repair, our intention is to demolish it and start again with a scheme giving a productive and more appropriate use."

The move comes after planners gave the go-ahead for the demolition of The Freebodies Tavern on St John's Road, which has been empty for more than five years, to make way for ten family homes.

Classic cars draw record crowd to park

Les Deykin from Bourneville gets his MG TF 1500 polished for the hugely popular car show at Himley Hall

RECORD numbers of people turned out in the sunshine to an annual car show at the weekend – prompting organisers to call it 'the best one yet'.

More than 3,500 people turned up at the Dudley Classic Car and Transport Show on the grounds of Himley Hall on Sunday.

In its 15th year, the show featured a collection of more than 800 vintage and classic cars. The vehicles included American, custom-built and kit cars. But among the main attractions was a Ghostbusters car accompanied with a huge inflatable Stay Puft Man, one of the monsters in the 1980s film.

Organiser Geoff Price said: "We've become a popular calendar event which many families now look forward to each year. The weather also helped.

"Many people took advantage of the sunshine and came to the show. The number of visitors speaks for itself – it's the best one yet."

The Ghostbusters car was taken to the show by co-owner Tim Jordan, aged 45. He created the film themed car from a rusty Cadillac ambulance. He also bought his son, seven-month-old Harrison, who was guest of honour at the show.

Harrison was born 11 weeks early on February 3, and the car show marked his first major outing.

As small as a £10 note when he was born, Harrison now weighs 9 lbs 6 oz and although he is still on oxygen and medication, the amount of both has been reduced.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Charities vye to win bank support

FOUR charities in the Black Country have been shortlisted for a funding programme which could see them net £3,000.

The Children's Sunflower Centre in John Corbett Drive, Amblecote, has been shortlisted for a grant from the Lloyds Bank Community Fund. Midlands Air Ambulance, Stourbridge Street Pastors and Insight for Carers Service in Brierley Hill are also up for the funding. The public are being asked to vote for the good cause they would most like to see given the funding. Visit www.lloydsbank.com/communityfund

Coffee mill makers are subject of talk

A PRESENTATION on coffee mill makers opens Sedgley Local History Society's new season of talks.

Presented by Kate Hartland-Westwood, who won the Wolverhampton Local History Symposium, it will cover the period between 1760 and 1911 when the manufacture of coffee mills thrived in the city.

The talk is today (Thursday) at 7.30pm in St Andrew's Church, Bilston Street. Admission is £1 or free with £5 annual membership.

New base is open for suicide charity

A CHARITY that works to prevent suicides among the young is to open a West Midlands office.

Papyrus, founded in 1997 by a group of parents who had lost children through suicide, is launching its new office in Vyse Street, Birmingham, this week. The charity runs the HopeLine phone service. Call 0800 068 41 41, text 07786 209 697, or email pat@papyrus-uk.org

Boats and beer and canal festival

LOCAL beers will be on sale in the real ale tent at the Black Country Boating Festival this weekend.

The event is along the Dudley Canal at the Bumblehole Nature Reserve, Windmill End, Netherton, on Saturday and Sunday and Campaign for Real Ale members are running the beer tent open from noon each day.

Women injured

TWO women were taken to hospital with minor injuries after a car ended up on its roof in an accident at a Dudley junction. Emergency services were called to Castle Gate Island at 9.20pm on Friday.

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THE BEST OF PETER RHODES

A READER asks, rather unkindly. "This ice-bucket challenge thing. Is it just a cheap alternative to a weekend in Wales?"

CAN we take it for granted that William Pooley will get a gong in the next Honours List for risking his life to save the life of others in the Ebola virus epidemic? Or does he have to sing pop songs, row a boat or ride a bike very fast as well?

MEREDYDD Hughes, head of South Yorkshire Police between 2004 and 2011, was damned by one tabloid for concentrating on speeding offences instead of child abusers. So let us turn the clock back to 2004. Tony Blair is prime minister. Charles Clarke is Home Secretary. Harriet Harman is Solicitor-General. And Chief Constable Hughes suddenly declares: "My priority is to stop Pakistani men raping little girls." He would have been sacked so fast you wouldn't have seen him for dust. Cops may share the guilt but the blame for this nightmare goes all the way to Downing Street.

THERE'S just one snag with the new school targets on grammar. The teachers can't teach. Alice Philips, president of the Girls' Schools Association, says thousands of young teachers have "little or no grounding in English language or grammar." Does that surprise anyone? We are steadily becoming an illiterate nation, blessed with the finest language this planet has ever seen but quite unable to use it.

SO the Czech Republic with a population of just 10 million has proton-beam cancer treatment but the United Kingdom, with six times the population, does not. Two things that we Brits are supposed to cherish have been exposed as rubbish in the Ashya King saga — British justice and the NHS.

AFTER Justin Webb almost made an unfortunate spoonerism on the Today programme (Radio 4) this week, BBC announcers mentioning the Great British Bake-Off should try to avoid describing it as "the hit baking show." Older readers may recall a similar spoonerism many years ago by Billy Cotton in his Bandshow, a national institution enjoyed live by a BBC audience of millions. In one sketch set in a Wild West saloon, Cotton was supposed to introduce a character called the Dead-Shot Kid. It came out as the Dead **** Cod.

MORE from Max Hastings's new book about the outbreak of war in 1914, Catastrophe. Some of the priceless quotes he has unearthed could have come straight out of Blackadder Goes Forth. After one great battle, the commanding officer of the Grenadier Guards wrote to his wife: "The men are splendid and I think their bravery in disregarding danger is largely due to British stupidity."

IF you ever thought Olympic glory was all about fun, consider the words of the England rowing champ Andrew Triggs Hoggs who told us this week that the abiding motto of his sport is: "A happy boat is a slow boat." If you start to enjoy it, that's when you lose.

DESPITE spending millions on adverts, the Army Reserve (formerly Territorial Army) signed up only 140 new recruits in the first six months of this year. No surprises there. The TA was traditionally a citizen army, to be mobilised in the event of general war. The Army Reserve is a subs' bench for any madcap adventure ordered by Downing Street. There is a world of difference between joining up to keep the Hun on the other side of the Channel and getting your head chopped off in Iraq for a cause you don't understand by a feral pack of demented jihadists from Cardiff.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

D-Day heroes claim top French honour

TWENTY-EIGHT veterans of the Normandy landings have come forward to claim France's highest order of merit following an appeal in The Chronicle's sister daily newspaper the Express & Star.

The Légion d'Honneur is being offered to every surviving British veteran of D-Day but they must apply for it. The E&S urged veterans to come forward after the Royal British Legion in Wolverhampton said only six former city soldiers had so far asked about it. But now, more than quadruple the number, including men from Stafford and Kingswinford, have got in touch with RBL Wolverhampton welfare officer Joy Widdowson, who is helping them make applications.

The Légion d'Honneur is normally only for French citizens but has been given to people who have done something that has served France or the ideals it upholds. The French Government has said it wants to bestow the award upon any surviving British serviceman who took part in D-Day.

Members of the Order must have their nomination sanctioned by a 17-member panel led by the Grand Master of the Legion, currently French President François Hollande. It was awarded to 746 members of the British Armed Forces during the Crimean War.

Mrs Widdowson said: "I'm now awaiting replies from the French embassy to see how we go about getting the medals to their recipients. Many of them are 90 or 91 years old now." Contact Mrs Widdowson on 01902 788874.

Revamp of market place facing delays

A MULTI-MILLION-pound revamp of Dudley's historic market place faces delays after hitting 'unforeseen problems'.

Businesses have already voiced concerns over disruption to trade following the start of the works which began back in January and saw traders temporarily moved off the site.

Council bosses today admitted there would be disruption to the works but claimed the project will continue.

By Andrew Turton

Works had been taking place in the market place itself on installing new stalls but this will switch to the New Street side of the market after a major snag.

Bosses from Dudley Council had hoped the new stalls would be put in place towards the end of October but now admit they do not how long the delays will last.

Stallholders have urged council bosses to work fast to resolve problems before the winter arrives.

Temporary stalls have been arranged on the other side of the town's19th century fountain with additional stalls set up in Stone Street Square at busy times. But chairman of Dudley Market Traders' Association, Len Lenihan, says these would not stand up to wintry conditions.

"It is worrying and concerning for market traders to hear about these delays," he said. "At this moment we are not fully aware of the total length of the delays and that is a problem.

"We do not really want to be on these temporary stalls in the winter and the council need to come up with an innovative way to more forward. On these temporary stalls there is water running between the stalls in the rain and it would be like a skating rink in the winter."

Dudley Council's regeneration boss Councillor Judy Foster said: "We have to modify part of the steel work to accommodate an unforeseen problem with ground levels. As a consequence, our planned works are being reprogrammed and work will now begin at the other end of the scheme (in New Street). There will be some disruption to the scheme. However, it is too early to determine the length of any delay at this stage."

Parts of New Street and Castle Street were closed to lay paving. Castle Street, New Street and Fisher Street re-opened to traffic last month. Four parking spaces, ring and ride and disabled bays have been created in Castle Street.

Murder charge is dropped

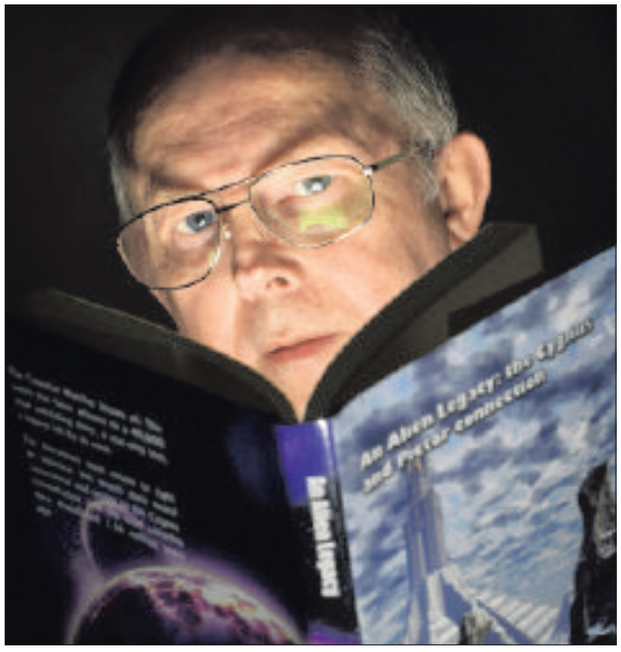
A WOMAN accused of the murder of an Halesowen pensioner has had the charge against her dropped.

The case against Chantelle Moran-Stokes, aged 24, of Latches Close, Darlaston, has been discontinued, police confirmed last week. She had been accused of murdering 80-year-old Cynthia Beamond.

Leo Barnes, of Runcorn Road, Balsall Heath, is charged with the murder of Mrs Beamond and also a murder in London.

He is due to appear at Wolverhampton Crown Court on October 10.

Author reaches for the stars



Author David J Price, of Sedgley, with his new science fiction novel An Alien Legacy

AN AUTHOR from Sedgley is delving into the world of science fiction with his latest offering which tracks a 40,000 year long story about a lost star ship.

Wolverhampton-born David J Price has penned An Alien Legacy: The Cygnus and Pictor Connection.

The retired quality assurance manager first picked up the writing bug after penning a short story in 1998.

From there he began entering competitions, gaining a special merit from the Writers Guild for a children's story, before publishing a collection of his short stories last year.

Moving away from children's fiction, David has now published An Alien Legacy to target adult science-fiction fans.

He has already received several good reviews, and says he is already considering a follow-up.

The ebook of An Alien Legacy is on all main platforms, and print copies are already in Waterstones.

Meeting to be held on scheme for waste site

CAMPAIGNERS fighting plans for a waste recycling plant in Brierley Hill have organised a public meeting to discuss the latest plans.

Clean Power has resubmitted plans for land off Moor Street with improved odour management arrangements after a previous planning application was thrown out by Dudley Council.

The revamped plan already faces opposition from Say No to Waste campaign group, which has organised a meeting for September 15 at Hawbush Primary School, in Hawbush Road, at 7.30pm.

In the revised application internal air-locks are proposed at three vehicle entrances to the building. It is Clean Power's second application after its initial proposals were thrown out amid concerns smells could waft over homes.

The six-acre plant could process about 195,000 tons of waste a year, creating energy for up to 10,000 homes. It would create 34 jobs.

A spokesman said: "Our proposals represent a very significant waste and recycling investment in Brierley Hill. It is needed so that the area does not continue landfilling and burning waste that could and should be better utilised."

Aldi plan for pub rejected

SUPERMARKET giant Aldi's hopes to build a new store on the site of a landmark Dudley pub have been scuppered after councillors refused to let the King Arthur pub be demolished.

On a prime location on Birmingham New Road, the pub has been derelict since its closure in 2012.

Aldi had offered to built a store bringing 40 jobs to the site if landowners Jahorina Limited got permission to knock down the 1930s venue — but councillors voted to refuse the application, insisting they want to see plans for the store first.

Homes site raided

THIEVES stole around £10,000 worth of construction equipment from a building site of a major new homes development in Hagley. A plant generator and power tools were among items taken from the Cala Homes site in Kidderminster Road last month.

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Residents' air quality fear over crossing

A FRESH bid by a college to install a pedestrian crossing between two campuses in Dudley town centre has drawn further opposition from nearby residents.

Dudley College lodged an appeal after plans for the puffin crossing in Tower Street, Dudley, were thrown out by councillors on the planning committee. It followed objections from residents who were worried that it would result in noise disturbance due to students gathering at the site.

They were also concerned that queuing traffic at the crossing would cause air quality problems.

But, in the appeal to the Planning Inspectorate, a statement on behalf of the college described any impact on nearby residents and air quality as 'mostly negligible and at worst minor'.

The college wants the crossing installed in a bid to reduce the risk of an accident and claims the crossing between the Evolve campus and Broadway centre would provide a safe walkway for 1,500 students.

Resident Colin Knipe, of Priory Close, said that did not outweigh disruption it would cause to traffic. He added: "While the opening of Evolve has led to students and some staff walking from Evolve to the main Broadway campus and back, the peak pedestrian movements are at different times of day to the busiest road traffic periods.

"The college's own figures show that at peak traffic times the crossing would cause significant additional queuing and knock-on effects."

Another resident, who did not wish to be named, said: "It would be horrendous. With the backing up of vehicles and the burning of fuel, it would be unbearable to live near. It's bad enough as it is near the main road for air quality, this would make it awful."

Councill officers said that when traffic was stationary the air quality in the immediate vicinity of the queue would, in the opinion of the committee, be adversely affected due to increased exhaust emissions.

The proposal by the college came after the opening of the Evolve campus two years ago. Built on the site of the former fire station, it accommodates up to 800 students a day and is part of the college's £36m Learning Quarter in the town centre.

Following the refusal of the application, principal Lowell Williams described it as a 'shock decision'. Studentstook part in the demonstration wearing T-shirts with tyre marks across them.

The appeal will be decided at a planning inquiry later this year.

Man finds his heroin addicted son dead

A HEROIN addict who was found dead by his father died of an overdose, an inquest heard.

Andrew Harper, 48, died at Kenilworth Court in Dudley on May 12 after his father, Arthur Harper, found him on the floor in his living room. He called for an ambulance but paramedics could do nothing to save himd.

Mr Harper said his son, a former haulage driver, had been a heroin addict for 20 years but had kicked the habit after spending nine months in prison last year. He said: "I suspect he got talking to people again and started taking it again around Christmas. When I found him I thought he was having a diabetic fit,because I had found him in that position before."

Senior coroner for the Black Country Robin Balmain said a pathologist's report showed that Mr Harper had 118 microgrammes of morphine, derived from heroin, in his blood. He told the court at Smethwick Council House that death is overdose levels can be anywhere between 100mcg and 500mcg per litre of blood. He added: "The medical cause of death was heroin toxicity. The message for everybody here is these drugs will probably end up killing you."

Jam-buster island plans

MOTORISTS will have to wait another month to find out the results of a public consultation on plans to improve one of the Black Country's busiest junctions.

Sandwell Council held the review on four traffic management options for Oldbury's notoriously congested Birchley Island. Hundreds of people responded to the consultation, where proposals include a two-way 'hamburger island'.

Councillors will consider the scheme on October 22 and it is hoped work will start on the project in March 2016.

Ambulance ball

TICKETS are available for a charity ball in aid of the Midlands Air Ambulance on Saturday at the Copthorne Hotel, Brierley Hill, including a meal and music from Chris Passey and his band. Tickets are £25. Call Angie Taylor on 07702 972443.

Ex-soldier nurse behind biggest ammo haul jailed

Report by Peter Madeley

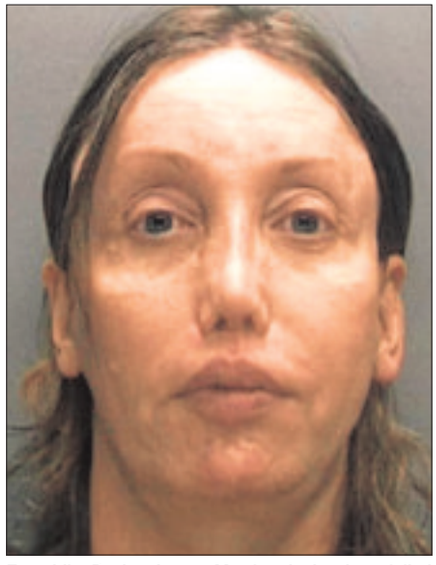
A FORMER ambulance controller based at Brierley Hill has been jailed for seven years after a raid at her home found the biggest haul of ammunition and explosives ever found by West Midlands Police.

Joanne Morris had seven sticks of plastic explosives and a home-made bomb when police swooped on her home in Station Street, Bloxwich on November 14 last year.

During a three-and-a-half day search of the property officers also seized 1,990 rounds of live ammunition, a dismantled 12-bore shotgun and 15 detonators. Residents, local businesses and Bloxwich police station nearby were evacuated as the incredible haul was uncovered.

Chemical warfare protection suits and ration packs were also discovered at the address along with two samurai swords, a harpoon and a number of air pistols. Police said it looked like she was preparing for 'a World War 3 Doomsday scenario'.

On the second day of the search bomb-disposal experts from the Army were called in to conduct a controlled explosion on five detonators found buried in a flowerbed in the back garden.



Ex-soldier Paul or Joanne Morris, who has been jailed

Ammunition stored in a metal case

A bullet press was among the haul

Bomb disposal officers at the properties near Bloxwich police station

Transgender

At Wolverhampton Crown Court yesterday the 48-year-old, also a former soldier, was handed a seven-year prison sentence after Judge John Warner said she had 'a long-standing obsession with weapons'.

Morris, who is transgender and was a man known as Paul Morris at the time of the raid worked as a nurse at New Cross Hospital in Wolverhampton and an ambulance controller in Brierley Hill. Police carried out a dawn raid on the property after border agency staff intercepted a parcel from the US containing gun parts addressed to her. The court was told a search – involving more than 100 officers and costing £50,000 – revealed the arms cache.

Mr Hugh O'Brien Quinn, prosecuting, said: "There was a huge quantity of ammunition, plastic explosives and other weapons stored insecurely. Morris was not deemed suitable to be in possession of any of it. She was obsessed with weapons."

Morris had accumulated the large stash of ammunition over 20 years. She claimed to have held onto a collection of 476 deadly hollow-point cartridges from her time as a member of the Charter Gun Club in Wales, while the explosives and detonators were from her time in the Army.

Morris served with the Royal Engineers for 10 years. During her tenure she was a man based at barracks in Wiltshire and saw service in the Falklands before being discharged in 1992. She had a firearms licence but this was withdrawn in April 1993 after she accidentally shot her wife in the leg while cleaning a revolver. Morris received a conditional discharge for the offence,.

The court was told that on the second day of the search officers found what they thought was a grenade, which turned out to be a relatively harmless smoke grenade. But during a search of a flowerbed, 15 detonators, seven sticks of PD4 plastic explosives, 16 metres of safety fuse and a firing device were unearthed. This led to an evacuation of the area while bomb disposal experts carried out as series of explosions. Mr O'Brien Quinn said: "If all seven sticks of the PD4 were initiated the number of casualties and damage to buildings would have been substantial."

Morris joined the Territorial Army after leaving the regular army, before she was took a position as a nurse at New Cross Hospital in Wolverhampton in 2003. She left the job after she was attacked by a patient in 2009 and received compensation. She was working at Brierley Hill ambulance control centre at the time of arrest.

Mr Brian Dean, defending, said the ammunition was unusable, while the parts of the shotgun recovered were damaged beyond repair. He added: "She is emotionally intelligent and coherent, not hostile or aggressive. She has long held a powerful desire to live her life as a woman and had led a blameless life. She is a gentle soul."

Morris pleaded guilty to four counts of possessing an explosive substance, four counts of unlawful possession of ammunition, possessing a shotgun and making an explosive substance.

Wearing a grey business suit and blouse, she showed no emotion as she was sentenced. Ordering custody in a male jail, Judge Warner told her: "I accept transgender issues will have had a profound effect on your life, but they are wholly unconnected to your culpability for the crimes."

NEWS IN BRIEF

New chairwoman appointed at Trust

A NEW chairwoman has been appointed at Dudley and Walsall Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust.

Danielle Oum, of Birmingham, said: "I'm delighted to be joining the Trust and look forward to working with the board and staff teams, partners in the local health economy and community groups to help ensure residents receive the best care possible."

A non-executive director at Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust, she supported the Dudley Primary Care Trust during 2009-10 with the transfer of services

Euro cash signs off on zoo project

MORE than 300 new information signs about Dudley Zoo's 1,300-strong animal collection have been put up across the Castle Hill site.

The £150,000 scheme to replace the attraction's 20-year-old signs began in February and will have taken 12 months, from design to installation, to be rolled out across the whole site. Money for the project came from the European Regeneration Development Fund. A further 100 signs will be installed at the 40-acre site.

Road closed for gas pipe work

A ROAD has been closed to traffic as part of work to revamp gas mains.

Trinity Street in Cradley Heath will be shut until September 19 between Haden Road and Halesowen Road. Traffic will be diverted via Halesowen Road, which is temporarily one-way, Reddal Hill Road, and Lawrence Lane.

National Grid is replacing pipes along Halesowen Road.

Antiques to be valued at event

SIGHT loss charity Beacon is hosting its own version of Antiques Roadshow at its HQ in Sedgley on Saturday, September 20.

For £3 auctioneers from Cuttlestones will value the items brought to the Beacon Centre on Wolverhampton Road East between 10am and 2pm. Any large items should be prebooked with the charity.

Forces on parade

STOURBRIDGE branch of the Royal Air Forces Association will hold its annual Battle of Britain Parade Service on Sunday, September 21. The parade will take place from Mary Stevens Park at 11am.

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IN MY VIEW

with Mark Andrews

AT the Nato conference in Gwent, the two men eyed each other up, the President of the United States came face-to-face with the Mayor of Newport and the Celtic Manor golf resort.

"I tried not to be overawed by the occasion, so I just shook him by the hand. But I think he could tell I was a little star-struck at being in the company of a man of his standing," said Barack Obama.

Actually, I might have made that bit up. Old Barry actually said everybody should go on holiday to Wales.

Why does that not surprise me. One of the weakest, most indecisive presidents in living memory is a big fan of the land which is famous for its largest population of sheep. Who would have thought it?

❒❒❒❒❒

Talking about the delights of Wales, it seems a group of workmen in the Castle Vale area of Birmingham seem to have got a bit carried away with their love of the place when they put up a roadworks sign in the Welsh language.

The notice, in Chester Road, near Castle Vale, said: "Fyddai'r ceblau cables a systemau gweitho ar ran grid cenedlaethol yn hoffi i ymddiheurwn am unrhyw anhwylustod yn ystod hyn gwaith hanfodol.

"Unrhyw ymholiadau cysylltwch 0845 400 2 132."

And who could argue with that? I do think it will be lost on the Brummies though. As any Black Country mon will tell you, they think swearing makes you bilingual.

❒❒❒❒❒

SAD to hear that Benefits Street star Fungi has had his house in James Turner Street, Winson Green, broken into.

Unsurprisingly, nothing was stolen, but Fungi understandably traumatised to find his property violated. He returned home to find his bedclothes changed and his kitchen fumigated.

❒❒❒❒❒❒

POLITICIANS who do not believe in climate change should be 'crushed and buried,' according to Sir Paul Nurse, the new president of the British Science Association.

Now to be fair, when it comes to crushing and burying politicians, I'm usually as up for it as the next man, but I do think he is being a little over-selective.

Sounding slightly like a poor man's Bond villain, Sir Paul said: "Politicians can't play with science, they have to listen to scientists." Or else?

He added that some climate-change sceptics were 'serial offenders' who he wants to make 'ashamed of the things they say'. Or failing that, dropping them into a large tank of piranhas, no doubt.

On a totally different subject, the West Midlands has just experienced its coldest August since 1993. I'd better prepare for sleeping with the fishes...

M&B sign shines through the flames

Much of the building was damaged by fires

Springfield Brewery fire brigade years ago

Brewery to spring back for university

DANIEL WAINWRIGHT reveals ambitious plans for a campus and school at the derelict Springfield site

THE derelict former M&B Springfield Brewery site in Wolverhampton is to be transformed into a university campus and school under £60 million plans.

The University of Wolverhampton has agreed to buy the fire-ravaged brewery to create a centre to educate students wanting careers in the construction industry.

There are plans to redevelop the site to become the home of the new West Midlands University Technical College (UTC) for Construction, which the university is sponsoring along with the Construction Industry Training Board (CITB).

Excellence

And the university also plans to relocate its own School of Architecture and the Built Environment there.

Vice-Chancellor of the University of Wolverhampton, Professor Geoff Layer, said: "This will provide a centre of excellence with the most comprehensive construction education and training not only in the country but in Europe."

An agreement to buy the 12-acre site which has been vacant since 1991 when the Mitchells & Butler brewery closed, has been reached with the aim to finalise the deal in the next few months.

It has not been revealed how much of the site, which dates back to 1873, will be preserved and which parts will be torn down. The brewery buildings were damaged by fires in 2004 and 2005.

The site had long been set aside for housing and more than £2 million was spent bringing buildings back to their former glory so they could become 140 flats. But the full plans never went ahead. The UTC will provide education for 14 to 19-year-olds with a special focus on construction skills.

Councillor Peter Bilson, Geoff Layer the vice chancellor of the University of Wolverhampton and Tom Macdonald. Principal Designate at West Midlands

It will open in September 2015 on a temporary site before moving into new buildings at Springfield in September 2016.

The University's School of Architecture and the Built Environment, which is based within the city centre campus, provides courses in construction management, civil engineering, quantity surveying, architecture and environmental management. It has around 1,000 students and is expected to grow by a third after the move.

Professor Layer said: "We are delighted to be working with the CITB in bringing this project together.

"This is hugely positive news for the construction industry and for Wolverhampton and the Black Country.

"The development will put the area on the map in terms of construction education and training and will mean that we can provide skills and education from the age of 14, right through to senior professionals wanting to improve their own development. It is also exciting for the City of Wolverhampton.

"It was a key factor for us to have this centre here in the city to support economic development by regenerating a brownfield site and creating jobs and providing the right skills needed by industry.

"This area has a history of manufacturing and once up and running the centre will provide future opportunities for people to continue adding to that heritage."

Tom MacDonald, principal designate of WMCUTC added: "Being able to build the WMCUTC on the Springfield Brewery site is great news.

"A formerly derelict site will now become the home of a world beating, state of the art UTC offering unique opportunities and high quality education for talented students from across the West Midlands.

Transform

"Uniquely the first group of students to join us in September 2015 will also get to work on the design and planning for the new build.

"In the years to come, the West Midlands Construction UTC will transform not only the career prospects of its students but the economy of a once derelict area of the city."

Councillor Peter Bilson, Wolverhampton City Council's deputy leader, said it was an exciting proposal.

"This will breathe new life into a vacant site and bring more jobs and opportunity to our city," he said.

"The construction sector has a major role to play in the overall regeneration and long-term prosperity of Wolverhampton.

"It is therefore important a skilled workforce is developed to take advantage of career opportunities that will arise over the next few years and this development can help us achieve that."

WEEK IN POLITICS

with Daniel Wainwright

MUCH has been written this week concerning the whys and wherefores of Dudley South MP Chris Kelly's decision to stand down.

He is going to finish the job he was elected to do, rather than seek to renew his term of office.

But the big problem for the Conservatives is still one of timing, as much as it is the loss of yet another MP from the 2010 intake.

When Mr Kelly was chosen as the Prospective Parliamentary Candidate in 2007 there was the possibility of a snap election being called by the then relatively-new Prime Minister Gordon Brown.

Labour's decision not to go to the country until 2010 gave the Tory candidate a good few years to get himself known in the area, get to grips with local matters and build up support not just for the party, but personally. Now there are just eight months to go.

If the Tories are to have any hope of a majority then they have to hold on to every single seat they won in 2010 and gain more.

David Cameron cannot afford to lose Dudley South or let go of Cannock Chase, Halesowen and Rowley Regis, Stafford, Stourbridge or Wolverhampton South West.

Chris Kelly's reasons for going are, he says, personal. Even so, there is a pattern the Conservatives have to address.

As many as nine of the 2010 intake – including Cannock Chase's Aidan Burley – are throwing in the towel. Mr Burley's reasons are also of his own making. Had he not gone to a stag party where the groom wore a Nazi uniform, his career might not have been as brief.

Being the incumbent MP usually brings advantages if the candidate has a record in office they can stand by. The task for untested Labour candidates is now much easier than it was a few months ago. They will have been out on the streets, knocking doors for longer than the Tories brought in to replace sitting MPs.

The 2015 election will be fought on multiple fronts, with UKIP taking votes from all sides. It is hardly the ideal time for rookies.

George Osborne is like a good house guest. When he turns up in the West Midlands he brings a present.

A recent visit to the Black Country saw him promise funding for the long-awaited new super hospital in Smethwick – something that had been drawn up under Labour but wasn't delivered.

And when he went to Screwfix in Cannock he was the one who announced lots of new jobs on the way. It is a remarkable turnaround for a man who was booed at the Olympics because of his 'omnishambles' budget to now be the one able to say to the electorate 'we told you so'.

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Cloudy2Clear Windows – Service With A Smile!

It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

Managing Director Brian Stanley feels that it's all about service. 'Our product is simple. If your double glazing is misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people money, although that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done.

We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole.'

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Commissioner role is waste of money

YET another very low turn out to vote for a police commissioner, which they blame on the holiday season and need for a quick election. The truth of the matter is that people are not interested in such a post.

Each candidate is affiliated to a political party and I would suggest there would have been a slightly better turnout if a candidate were a member of the public and their only allegiance would be to their role of police commissioner and not a political party. The public are very wary of politicians and what the say they will do.

The word commissioner stirs up images of America, we already have to much of their ways. Our prime minister, when making a speech, stands behind a podium similar to their president, we have even got to the stage that when the national anthem is played I have seen members of the public with their arm across their chest.

The role of commissioner is neither required or wanted by the public, it is just a waste of tax payers' money.

P LOWE
BRIERLEY HILL

Bid to help campaign for theatre

RE Friends of Dudley Hippodrome — I have to say that I saw a statement that said 'we need to raise £5,000 so that we can become a charity that will allow us to try and access funds for charity organisations'.

You do not have to do this, all you have to do is to form a constitution and have three trustees.

Of course, this has to be done properly. There are plenty of opportunities were funding can be obtained.

I myself am a trustee of a local charity and understand how to access funding. I fully support what they are trying to achieve and would like to offer my help again.

I also hope that all our councillors, when asked their views on the Hippodrome, that they will not be ruled by a chief whip who has told them to not comment. Don't forget you were elected to serve your electorate that voted you into council. They have the right to know.

STEVE DANIELS
UKIP, NETHERTON, WOODSIDE & ST ANDREWS

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST
Dudley Chronicle, Chronicle Editorial, 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

E-MAIL
Dudley.chron@expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Parliament does not listen to the people

TIME and time again the subject of immigration keeps coming up. When the Conservatives formed a coalition in 2010 they blamed Labour for the amount of asylum seekers coming into Britain and Cameron said he was going to get it down below the hundred thousand mark. Four years on the latest figures show that 250,000 have come in.

None of the main parties seem to be either concerned about the figures and the majority of people in the country cannot understand why the coalition cannot get the numbers down. It has been said that if the present amount of people keep coming in, in the next 20 years we will need to create 20 more cities the size of Birmingham.

Nobody in Parliament is listening. The people do not want the numbers coming in reduced, they want it halted. Ask the MPs to look at my lips, 'zero'. This country is overflowing.

We are much smaller than Australia, America, France, Germany and Russia.

This country would be so much better off in our NHS, schools and employment if the population was halted.

So, please Mr Cameron, Nick Clegg, Ed Miliband, listen to the people of this country and act on why the people of the country voted for you.

We are sick of all of the promises that you keep peddling out to us and fail to carry out. We want action.

B WHITEHOUSE
KINGSWINFORD

Correctness is a monster

IT has long been my belief that political correctness is rotting the very fabric of our society.

What was originally a noble attempt to clarify the way that all citizens should fairly interact in a society has spawned a monster that throttles free discussion and censures truth.

A major element of the current Rotherham child scandal is the effect of the creature's growth.

All should be treated as equal before the law. The colour of one's skin or one's religion should never enter into the equation. As it was, undoubtedly, a factor in this disaster. The fear of the word 'racism' which is now used as a shield to protect all manner of unacceptable practices. In this case it has resulted in 1,400 youngsters being scarred for life mentally and physically.

A M ETHERIDGE
SEDGLEY

Need to bag information

I am hoping to enlist the help of readers to make sure that a piece of Bilston's history is not forgotten. I began as a driver for Bilston Service Laundry, Vulcan Road in 1959. The laundry provided a 'bag wash' service in the 50s and 60s for people in the Black Country, Wolverhampton and a large area of Birmingham so I was astonished when my searches failed to provide any mention of Bilston Service Laundry. If readers have any memories contact me at trevorworrall@blueyonder.co.uk or on 07932604893.

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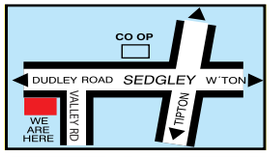


It's a whole new stage in life for actor Lenny

HE started his career doing impersonations of Frank Spencer and Tommy Cooper on the TV talent show New Faces in the 1970s.

He became a household name creating comedy characters like DJ Delbert Wilkins, Theophilus P. Wildebeeste and Trevor MacDoughnut on prime time TV shows in the 80s and 90s.

But the 56-year-old Dudley-born funnyman Lenny Henry is turning his back on comedy so that he can focus on his career as a serious stage actor.

The former Blue Coat School pupil went on to become one of the nation's best-loved comic presenters with his regular role at the helm of Comic Relief charity marathons.

Drama

He started his transition into high quality drama with an acclaimed performance in Othello in 2009 and is curently appearing at Birmingham's Rep Theatre in a brand new play, called Rudy's Rare Records.

Based on a radio sitcom co-created by the actor/writer, it is a blend of drama and humour looking at family relations at a failing record shop.

Lenny, who is now based in London, regularly visits his native West Midlands and is looking forward to the show, which runs until September 20, and marks his drama debut in the city where he spent much of his time as a youth.

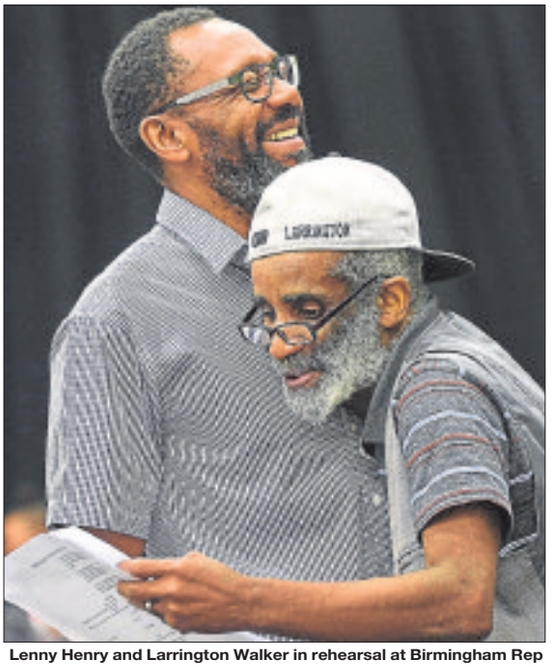
He said he was delighted to have earned the respect of audiences and critics alike for his work as a serious actor. This year he won a Critics Circle Theatre Award for his role in August Wilson's American drama Fences.

"Othello was a game changer. Who knew? Who knew?" he said. "I still love doing Delbert, Deakus, Theophilus and the bluesman. They are great characters and I still do those today. But what I'm more interested in now is storytelling. Comedy is a lottery, it's either funny or it's not and the audience decide.

"It's tricky to be a comedian and I did it for 25 years. I'm very proud of the work that I did.

"Comedy is definitely a young person's game. Observational comedy is difficult. There's only so many things you can notice and after a while you just become repetitive. I didn't want to do that, so for me acting is the way forward."

He hasn't ruled out an eventual return to the stage as a stand-up. comic but has no plans for comedy work and is instead challenging himself with dramatic roles in the theatre.



Lenny Henry and Larrington Walker in rehearsal at Birmingham Rep

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Blind Dave joins Black Country Run

The Rotary Club's Alan Bowler from Halesowen and Blind Dave Heeley promote the Black Country Run

HE has run a marathon on every continent in seven successive days but this month 'Blind Dave' Heeley will be stepping down the mileage on his home turf in a Black Country charity race.

The 56-year-old from West Bromwich is planning to dress as cartoon character Shrek when he takes part in The Great Black Country Run, a 10km race taking place in Halesowen on Sunday, September 21.

He will be joined by friends Tony Ellis and Rosemary Rhodes, who plan to join in the theme by dressing up as other characters from the film.

The race takes place a year before they join the Marathon de Sables, which will see them run the equivalent of five-and-a-half marathons in the Sahara Desert.

Mr Heeley said: "It is the third year of The Great Black Country Run, they have asked me to take part the last couple of years but it has always happened on the same day at the Great North Run. This year it didn't so I put my name down.

"To add some fun, me and some friends taking part have decided to dress up as characters from Shrek. We do a lot of the runs and we always see people dressed up but have never done it. We're on the look-out for costumes."

The Great Black Country Run is organised by The Rotary Club of Halesowen & Rowley Regis in aid of local charities. As well as the 10km race, there will also be a 5km fun run. Last year the race raised £20,000 for charity. See www.theblackcountryrun.com

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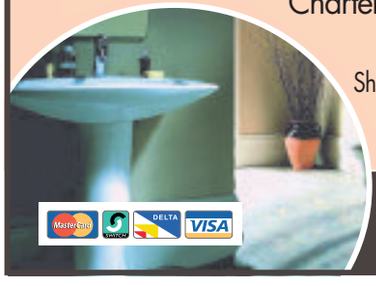

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'I am proud to have served the good people of Dudley'

THE WAY I SEE IT

Dudley South Conservative MP Chris Kelly takes the stand in our weekly Chronicle column which gives our local representatives the chance to air their views

'I have found it increasingly difficult to find the right balance between my work and my personal and family life'

I HAVE announced that I will be standing down from Parliament at the general election next year.

I would like to thank all those who have supported me since I was selected for Dudley South in September 2007.

I would especially like to thank all those who voted for me at the general election in May 2010 and all of the friends and supporters who helped me for that election, as well as those who have supported my efforts since.

I am proud to have served the good people of Dudley South for the past five years.

It's been a huge honour to be an MP for a seat in the Black Country — a place where I was born and brought up.

Privilege

Having the chance to vote in the Commons on issues I care about — such as our future relationship with the European Union or tackling scrap metal theft — and represent the people of Dudley South in Parliament has been a huge privilege.

However, I have found it increasingly difficult to find the right balance between my work and my personal and family life — the unpredictability of business timetabled in the Commons combined with driving back and forth between the West Midlands and London has meant that I haven't been able to see those close to me as often as I'd like.

That's why I'm stepping down.

I've seen too many friends' relationships fail in Parliament and I don't want the same thing to happen to me.

My announcement was not linked to Douglas Carswell's. I like Douglas personally but I've been a Conservative for almost 20 years and will remain so.

I'll be working hard to ensure the new Conservative candidate is elected the next Member of Parliament for Dudley South in May 2015.

I have several other friends who, like Douglas, have also left the Conservative Party for UKIP in recent years. Some of them have then gone on to ask me to join them. Each time I have said no — and asked them to re-join us!

There have been no negotiations about defecting. I have never met, or ever spoken to, Nigel Farage.

A new Prospective Parliamentary Candidate for Dudley South will be selected & announced by the Conservative Party in due course.

Either David Cameron or Ed Miliband will be Prime Minister after May 2015. Ed Miliband would be a disaster for jobs in Dudley and for the UK economy and only if David Cameron is still Prime Minister will we get the referendum on EU membership that I have been arguing for since I was elected in 2010.

On Wednesday at PMQs I asked the Prime Minister for more details about the Government's strategy to deal with British born jihadis fighting for the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria.

I was touched by the vocal support I received from colleagues as I rose and also touched by the Prime Minister's kind words which began "I pay tribute to my hon Friend for his great work representing the people of Dudley South for the past four years and all the work he has done."

Home

Thursday was a one line whip (Parliamentary language for no votes) so I took the opportunity to return home mid-week. It was nice to be back home in the Black Country after a big week in Westminster as a result of my announcement.

On Friday I returned to the Commons to vote for Bob Neill MP's excellent European Union (Referendum) Bill. It's time to LetBritainDecide.com.

Chris Kelly can be contacted via 01384 211 041, office@chriskelly.mp or House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA.

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Depressed driver crashed into back of car on purpose

A DEPRESSED driver deliberately careered into the back of a car travelling in front of him, a judge heard.

By John Scott

Father-of-three Colin Ford wanted to harm himself because life 'was not worth living,' Wolverhampton Crown Court was told. He had driven into a lamppost when in a similar state of mind two years earlier.

The 32-year-old took his seat belt off, put his foot down and ploughed into the rear of the Renault Megane ahead of his VW Transporter van at The Embankment in Brierley Hill at 8pm on July 4.

Paul Reid, prosecuting, said the impact of the crash wrote off the car which Mr Robert Bloomer was driving. His passenger Miss Natalia Farnsworth needed hospital treatment for whiplash and bruising to her back caused by the smash.

Mr Reid told the court: "The defendant was suffering from depression and wanted to harm himself."

Ford had called police on his mobile phone and waited until they arrived to arrest him.

Mr Shabeer Qureshi, defending, said: "At that moment he felt life was not worth living. It was a deliberate action but he only wanted to harm himself."

Relationship

The court heard that Ford, of Pleck Road, Walsall, who was uninjured in the collision, had suffered a panic attack while at the nearby Merry Hill Shopping Centre.

This incident had followed the break up of his relationship with the mother of his children, continued the lawyer.

She had subsequently started a relationship with another man who had 'taken over' the role of father to the three youngsters, the court was told.

Stress over this triggered the mental problems from which he was suffering when the smash occurred and for which he was now receiving treatment, concluded Mr Qureshi.

Ford admitted dangerous driving. He was given a six-month prison sentence suspended under supervision for two years.

He was also given a one-year driving ban and was ordered pay £450 compensation to Mr Bloomer.

Recorder Marcus Tregilgas-Davey told him: "The fact that you must have been suffering with a nervous breakdown explains but does not excuse your actions.

"It is fortunate the injury to the two people in the car you hit were not more serious. Potentially they could have been fatal."

Town's 'cops and robbers' on reality show

LIFE on both sides on the law in the Black Country ise the subject of a new Channel 4 documentary that started this week

Cops and Robbers is a four-part series which features West Midlands Police in its first fly-on-the-wall documentary, allowing cameras to follow its officers trying to steer offenders away from a life of crime.

Police in Dudley and Birmingham North are the main focus of the programme.

Superintendent Andy Parsons, from Dudley Police, said: "We decided to take part in this documentary to raise public awareness around the work that offender managers and partners do to try to tackle reoffending.

"At the same time we wanted to highlight some of the difficulties which officers and partners have to overcome in helping this type of offender move away from a life of crime."

"The vast majority of people who live in North Birmingham and Dudley are honest and law abiding and this series touches on the tiny proportion of individuals whose often chaotic lifestyles can unfairly impact on the rest of the community."

In recent years the force has spent millions of pounds on offender management, tripling the number of officers tasked with preventing criminals committing more crimes.

Cops and Robbers started on Monday at 9pm.

X Factor pop star inspires students

Singer Marcus Collins performed for students at Halesowen College and spoke about his studies

X Factor star Marcus Collins has been preparing for his latest tour by rehearsing with his band at Halesowen College.

Marcus chose the college for rehearsals as his musical director and keyboard player Dan Healey is a former student and music lecturer there.

The 26-year-old former hairdresser from Liverpool was runner up to girl band Little Mix in the eight series of X Factor in 2011.

Marcus also took time out to answer questions put forward by the students and performed two songs. He encouraged the students to be motivated and spoke about how his college courses in music and performing arts helped him.

Dave Roberton, curriculum team manager for Performing Arts at Halesowen College, said: "It was great to see the rehearsal and learn more about song choices, song composition and tour organization."

Marcus will be touring with his band including Telford's Oakengates Theatre on Wednesday, September 25.

Man was found hanged in wood after minor row

A MAN found hanged in woods killed himself following a minor family row, an inquest heard.

A walker found the body of Carl Rutter, aged 44, at Little Iverley Covert near his Stourbridge home on June 11.

Coroner's officer Andrew Heathcote told the hearing in Cannock that Mr Rutter's family suspected he had mental health issues.

Giving evidence Pc David Fletcher, of Wombourne police, said Mr Rutter had left his home, in Lavender Lane, on foot after an argument with his stepson over a cupboard door that had been left open, on which he bumped his head.

He also said Mr Rutter had been concerned about a solicitors' letter he had received about a payment regarding his ex-partner.

His wife Patricia and stepson became concerned when he did not return home.

A post-mortem report stated that Mr Rutter had 143 milligrammes of alcohol in his system. The legal limit for driving is 80mg.

South Staffs Coroner Andrew Haigh said: "He went somewhere where he was likely to be found by someone. I am satisfied beyond reasonable doubt that he intended to kill himself and has done so."

He recorded that Mr Rutter committed suicide.

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Two locked up for roles in £1.7m tobacco racket

TWO members of a gang behind a £1.7million cigarette and tobacco smuggling racket have been jailed.

Alan Nesbeth, aged 53, was put behind bars for five years while 28-year-old Jian Ning Yang was locked up for two-and-a-half years.

Some of the contraband was sent into the country through the post in packages and parcels from China and Korea disguised as tea, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard last week. The rest was driven into the UK by the lorry load, explained Miss Heidi Kubik, prosecuting.

The racket was smashed by Revenue and Customs investigators who swooped to seize hundreds of thousands of illicit cigarettes and tons of rolling tobacco.

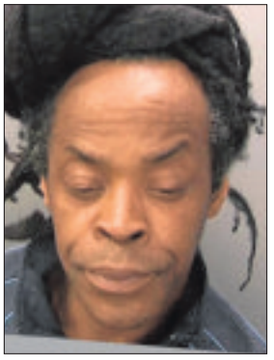
Storage

A huge haul, on which £1.6 million duty had been evaded, was recovered after the juggernaut, in which it had been concealed among a load of steel wool, arrived at the Alligator Self Storage unit in Portway Road, Wednesbury, in May 2013.

Fifteen months earlier another raid by officials on the Leavesley Containers in Wellington Road, Dudley, had unearthed tobacco and cigarettes on which £131,000 duty had been dodged. That had been smuggled into the country as either freight or in postal packages of 'tea.'

Yang played an important role in the latter, acting as a link between the UK and Chinese arms of the operation because he spoke good English. Investigators had watched him transferring heavy boxes from the container to his car. His green BMW was then tailed to a house in Greenhill Road, Handsworth, where more boxes and bin liners packed with tobacco were found.

Jian Yang — cigarettes found in boot



Alan Nesbeth — rented container

Delivery companies were also seen dropping off packages at the address from which 8,000 illicit cigarettes and tobacco were recovered. A £38,175 cash stash was later discovered at his home in Linwood Road, Dudley.

Surveillance teams saw packages of 'tea' being collected from Bilston post office by 53-year-old Nesbeth and Renna Graham. The former was also spotted selling tobacco in the street outside the post office in the summer of 2012.

Around 10,800 cigarettes were found in the boot of Yang's car when it was stopped by investigators while both Nesbeth and 63-year-old Graham were travelling as passengers.

Nesbeth, of Glyn Avenue, Moxley, was seen at the Alligator Self Storage in May the following year where surveillance filmed boxes being unloaded from the lorry to a container that had been rented by him under the guise of storing electrical goods.

Yang had been an important player in the smuggling through Leavesley Containers while Nesbeth was a 'facilitator' in the operation both there and at the Alligator Self Storage yard, the court was told.

Graham, of Bradley Lane, Bilston had been paid £15-a-time to receive packages sent by the gang from China and Korea.

Conspiracy

She and Nesbeth were both convicted of conspiracy to evade excise duty through the fraudulent importation of cigarettes and tobacco between July 2011 and January 2013 while Yang admitted the offence.

Graham was given a 15 month prison sentence suspended under supervision for 18 months.

Judge Michael Dudley told them: "This was a highly sophisticated smuggling operation involving Chinese and Korean connections."

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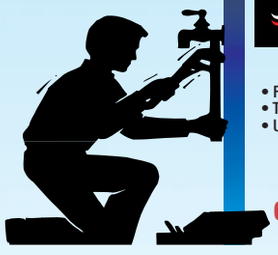

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College labs in a £1m revamp

MORE than £1 million has been spent revamping science labs at Stourbridge College.Work to upgrade the facilities took place during the summer break.

It comes as work continues on a £5 million scheme to create a new reception area and health and social care centre. It is expected to be completed by February.

Ben Grimley, assistant director for science, said: "We are all really excited by the prospect of moving the faculty into new purpose-built laboratories as part of the multi-million pound refurbishment of the Hagley Road site. This will now enable the college to deliver A-level physics alongside its other A-level sciences with A-level biology being one of the subjects achieving 100 per cent pass rates this summer.

"The new facilities will also enable more science courses to be offered to part-time students and adult learners as well as offering bright, engaging and innovative learning spaces for 16-19 year olds."

Jail for builder who made 'hollow promise' over deal

A FRAUDSTER who promised to pay his victims after making a deal with Nigerian president Goodluck Jonathan has been jailed for two years.

Builder Mark Ware continued to trade for four months after his business encountered financial trouble in January 2010, leaving homeowners in the Stourbridge area thousands of pounds out of pocket. Ware took deposits from customers for work that was never finished and failed to pay suppliers, carpenters and plumbers.

Ware, of Sutton Coldfield, pleaded guilty to three charges of VAT fraud and two of fraudulent trading earlier this year. He was due to be sentenced in June, and then in July, but the case was adjourned as the court heard that Ware was involved in a multi-million pound deal with the Nigerian president Goodluck Jonathan.

It was said the deal would have earned Ware £2 million in bonuses which he could have used to pay off the debt. He was sent to prison after Birmingham Crown Court heard last week that the deal had not been completed.

Judge Mary Stacey said the builder had been 'utterly reckless'. She told him: "You have swung us along for many months with the hope and expectation of being put into funds so that people could be paid back. It turned out to be a hollow promise."

Prosecutor Nicholas Cole told the court Ware launched four firms and took on building contracts in 2006. He could no longer pay his debts by January 2010 but continued trading for four months. Householders lost a total of £157,995.

Martin Butterworth, defending, said Ware accepted liabilities of up to £100,000. He added: "This whole venture was misconceived, that is, moving into an industry of which he had no experience."

One of the victims, David Jerrom, of Oldswinford, said a number of Ware's victims had come together to bring him to court with the help of Stourbridge MP Margot James, Bromsgrove MP Sajid Javid and a group called Scam Busters.

Another victim, Peter Mitchelson, from Hagley, said: "This shouldn't have taken four years to crawl through the justice system. If someone had walked into Oldswinford Post Office and stolen £160,000 they would get five years in prison, and that's what Ware should have got."

Lower speed on busy road

A NEW speed limit was due to come into force on a busy dual carriageway in Quarry Bank this week

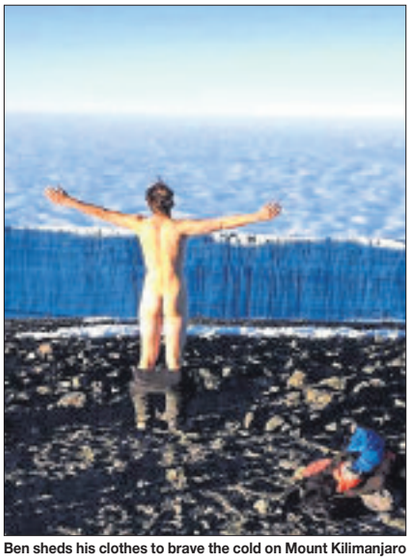
The plans for Thorns Road – where a man died last year after being hit by a lorry – follow calls to make the road safer.

Signs showing the reduction from 40mph to 30mph should be going up this week. The new speed limit will cover all of Thorns Road, as well as parts of Pedmore Road.

Thorns Primary School, Stevens Park, Lye Railway Station are situated along the road, where 26-year-old Sartaj Aziz was hit by a lorry ast year.

Transport boss Councillor Khurshid Ahmed said: "The new limit will come into force when the revised signs are in place. This work is about making the area much safer for pedestrians, especially children and parents walking to and from school."

Cheeky teen achieves his naked ambition



Ben sheds his clothes to brave the cold on Mount Kilimanjaro

WHEN 18-year-old Ben Boleyn reached the top of Mount Kilimanjaro — raising £600 for Acorns Children's Hospice — he decided to mark the occasion in his own way.

After an eight-day trek to reach the peak, almost 6,000 metres above sea level, the cheeky teen stripped naked in temperatures of -12C.

Ben, from Kingswinford, said: "One volunteer said every time he goes to a national landmark he takes a naked picture of himself. It just snowballed after that. Everyone kept talking about it and one climber bet me 500 Tanzanian shillings, which is about 18p that I wouldn't do it. When we got to the top I just thought why not?"

Before the climb Ben, who wants to be a doctor, spent time volunteering at Mwananyamala hospital in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. Ben recently finished his A-Levels at King Edward VI College in Stourbridge where he got an A in Chemistry, A in Human Biology and a B in Maths.

Ben raised £6,000 for a hospice

Ben said: "I do voluntary work every week at Acorns Children's Hospice in Worcester so have seen the amazing work they do caring for terminally ill children." Donations can still be made at www.justgiving.com/Ben-Boleyn/

New grants available to boost business 'vitality'

PLANS to offer business owners the chance to bid for cash to brighten up empty shops have been approved. A £167,000 cash pot will be made available for projects in Dudley.

People will be able to apply for grants of up to £5,000. Money will be available for projects which can be used to improve the appearance of vacant units and 'grot spots' across the borough.

The cash is being offered by Dudley Council and has come from Government funding from the High Street Innovation Fund and Empty Shops Grant initiatives with former Area Committee Delegated Capital budgets £167,361.

Regeneration boss Councillor Judy Foster has given the scheme the go-ahead. She said: "Applications are invited for a wide range of proposals, however, the main consideration for applications will be whether they will improve the appearance or economic vitality of an area."

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Buyers snap up Waterfront apartments

Luxury living – an artist's impression of how the new apartments at the Waterfront could look inside, prices start from £83,000

MORE than a third of luxury apartments yet to be created in a multi-million pound transformation of a deserted office block by the Merry Hill shopping centre have already been snapped up.

Developers said they have had a 'phenomenal response' from buyers to the scheme for 181 flats at the former Point North at the Waterfront in Brierley Hill. It comes as work to convert the former office building into the newly-named The Landmark apartment block begins this week. The project is expected to take a year.

Phil Carlin, managing director of Seven Capital, said: "We are up to about a third of the apartments which have now been sold. It is a phenomenal response.

"We've had people calling us up from all over the place, including those from the local area who have read about it in the newspaper. Usually we would be selling to investors before a project is complete, but we've had many owner occupier buyers who live locally. Many people already know of the building and they are attracted by the setting and what we are doing."

The total resale value of the properties will be more than £20 million, with prices starting at £83,000 for a one-bedroom apartment. The seven-storey office block will consist of 136 one-bed flats, 37 two-beds and eight studios including six rooftop penthouse apartments.

The building has stood empty for five years after insurance firm Egg moved out. It was set to become West Bromwich Building Society's new HQ, but the firm pulled out, opting for a site elsewhere.

Managing director Phil Carlin

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Get on together and stay happy, say couple

Albert and Nora Silcox, of Delph Road, Brierley Hill, who are celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary

A COUPLE who have lived in Brierley Hill for more than 60 years say that secret to a long marriage is ensuring that you get on well together.

Nora and Albert Silcox are celebrating their diamond wedding anniversary after first meeting at a town hall dance in Stourbridge in 1952. Nora, 86, said: "About 12 months later we were at a birthday party and a chap said to Albert 'you should take her home'. He's been taking me home ever since."

She recalled that their first home together had to be fixed up because it had an outside toilet, a gas light and no hot water.

After national service Albert worked at the Round Oak Steelworks, near where the Merry Hill shopping centre now stands, until he retired when it closed in 1982.

Nora said there was no secret to a long-lasting marriage other than to get on well with the other person. She sdded: "We don't owe anybody a penny, we have always done things for each other and we have had many happy years together."

The couple on their wedding day

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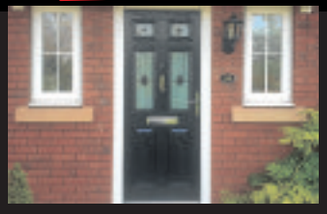

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COMMERCIAL FEATURE

Don't be disappointed - choose Choices Windows

The home improvement market is changing and the demand for more choice in colour and suitability of PVC-U doors and windows is growing. Fashionable additions such as orangeries are increasingly desirable, as more people look for ways to improve their home.

Established since 1994, Tipton Windows & Conservatories Ltd, trading as Choices , believe that the latest trends are important, but quality products and exceptional service will always be paramount, which this family run business have proven over two decades.

Situated on Sedgley Road West in Tipton, the founder and company Managing Director Nathan Beddows started the business from scratch at the early age of 19 working out of the very same premises as he does today, He explains his passion:

"I cannot stress enough how much pride we take in every window, door, conservatory, orangery we manufacture and install."

With its roots in manufacturing, the business started more than 20 years ago, and right from the very start an emphasis has been placed on supplying only the finest and most energy-efficient products, but still remaining affordable.

"Our commitment extends beyond the manufacturing process to the design and installation of doors, windows, conservatories and other home improvement services," explains Nathan.

"For some customers we supply new windows and doors, for others we provide a complete home improvement service from building extensions and fitting kitchens, to designing and installing conservatories and more recently Orangeries," says Nathan.

One tremendously satisfied customer is Rick Houghton. Having being recommended to Choices Windows by colleagues at work he employed them to carry out extensive work at his home, he is keen to share his experiences and commend the team involved.

"Every stage of the process was excellently planned and we received nothing but the best service from start to finish. The tradesmen were outstanding and we were so impressed that we handed over our keys and went on holiday whilst the work was being carried out."

Rick and his family were absolutely thrilled and utterly delighted with the results on their return.

"We are so grateful to Nathan and his team for transforming our home into something we could only have dreamed of," remarked Rick.

Keen to keep ahead in the style stakes, Nathan is ever aware of the latest designs, materials and colours on offer, and strives to make these available to his customers.

"Many people are now opting for stylish coloured PVC-U, influenced by timeless muted 'National Trust' tones. Sage green, gun metal grey and cream are all becoming very fashionable alongside the traditional clean bright white," explains Nathan.

Fitting new PVC-U windows can be a good choice for the environment as well as for your home. Replacing dated double glazing can help save money on heating bills and reduce the carbon footprint of a residence.

"We offer A-rated energy-efficient windows and doors which can help save up to £250 from heating bills in the first year alone. They not only reflect heat back into the house, but also retain heat from solar gain," remarks Nathan.

"As a company we pride ourselves on giving old fashioned value for money and excellent service, we can undertake the majority of jobs and because we manufacture in house at our premises unlike the majority of our local competitors it enables us to have full control so we can manage your project from start to completion ensuring your experience is stress free".

"After many years in the Double glazing business we have seen a lot of competitors come and go, unfortunately leaving many customers without any warranty, after parting with their hard earned cash. Any customer who is considering having any home improvements should choose carefully and do their homework on the company they are considering, ensure if you part with money upfront it is protected by a Fensa approved deposit indemnity scheme, ask to visit previous customers but most importantly don't be fooled by the salesmen's tactics of a tempting "sign on the night low price offer" that the double glazing industry is notorious for "advises Nathan.

The old sayings are always the best - after a low price is long forgotten, poor quality long remains".

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Poison reputation of notorious doctor

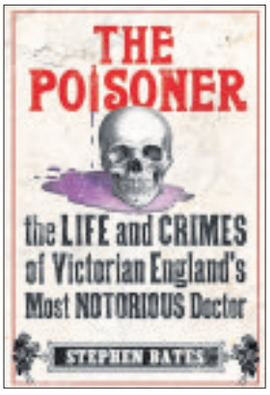
History Book Reviews

IT was a case that shocked Victorian England and put Rugeley on the map.

Even now the tale of Dr William Palmer, aka the Prince of Poisoners, still sparks interest and debate — 158 years on from his death on June 14 1856, as a crowd of 30,000 bayed for his blood.

Former journalist Stephen Bates gives his take on Palmer's deeds. He was convicted of one murder, that of his friend John Parsons Cook, but was suspected of killing several more, most notably his wife and children.

In **The Poisoner: The Life and Crimes of Victorian England's Most Notorious Doctor** (Duckworth, hardback £16.99), Bates leaves the readers to draw their own conclusion from his meticulous research. It is Bates' ability to conjure up that uncertainty that makes this such a compelling read. **MS**



The Poisoner looks at an infamous case

AN HISTORICAL epic with as much war, gore, deal making and double crossing as Game of Thrones, but it is historical fact rather than fantasy fiction that is the narrative in a new book which casts light on the Dark Ages.

Peter Heather examines 600 years of history, spanning the period between the fall of the Roman Empire and the rise of the Papacy in **The Restoration of Rome** (Pan, paperback, £12.99). He looks at several great European leaders who tried to emulate the greatness of the Roman Empire.

The last Roman Emperor of the West was still alive when the Goth warlord Theoderic made the first serious attempt to revive the glory of Rome with an empire stretching from Spain to Croatia. Though apparently able to slice an opponent in two with his sword, Theoderic turns out to have been an astute politician. He was certainly well-educated, having grown up in Constantinople as the guest/hostage of the Emperor of the Eastern Roman Empire, to ensure his father stayed on good terms.

Medieval

The Professor of Medieval History at King's College London goes on to tell about others who tried to reignite the imperial flame, such as Justinian and Charlemagne, key figures from early European history who are little known to a modern audience. There is plenty of detail with all the footnotes a serious history buff could want but Professor Heather also keeps the tone light and engaging for the more casual reader.

The White House is ablaze and the President and his wife only just had time to flee. And who is responsible... the British Army.

If you think that America winning the War of Independence put an end to violent conflict between the United States and Britain, prepare to be surprised, because 30 years later the Limeys were back with a vengeance.

Two hundred years ago, in August 1814, Britain gave America a bloody nose in a confrontation that was to have a major impact on both nations, eventually turning bitter enemies into friends and allies.

Yet the British attack on Washington and Baltimore is almost forgotten, unlike the victory over America's former friend Napoleon which followed a few months later at Waterloo. The incident did, however, inspire America's National Anthem.

Read about this fascinating, largely overlooked, episode from history in journalist and broadcaster Peter Snow's fascinating account **When Britain Burned the White House: The 1814 Invasion of Washington** (John Murray, paperback, £9.99).

Dance critic Judith Mackrell turns to the Jazz Age in **Flappers** (Pan, paperback, £8.99), looking at the Roaring 20s through the eyes of six women who audaciously and daringly reinvented themselves for a new era. These formidable ladies — Diana Cooper, Nancy Cunard, Tallulah Bankhead, Zelda Fitzgerald, Josephine Baker and Tamara de Lempicka — were determined to do much more than look fashionable and dance the Charleston.

The Kremlin has long symbolised power in Russia and **Red Fortress: The Secret Heart of Russia's History** (Penguin, paperback, £10.99) is a 'biography' of the Moscow landmark in which Catherine Merridale goes behind the walls and towers to reveal the roots of Russian politics and culture. This engaging history is even more pertinent in the Putin era when decisions made inside the Red Fortress still have huge significance. **LB**

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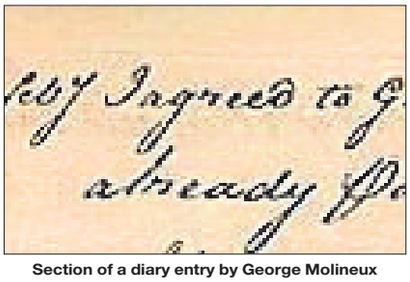
View of Exhibition site looking towards Molineux House

A painting of George Africanus out hunting

Visitors from Nottingam look through documents at the Wolverhampton Archive



Section of a diary entry by George Molineux

Molineux House viewed from the rear in 1871

Bought as a slave, the Molineux family put him on road to success

HE was bought as a slave to the influential Molineux family. But George Africanus went on to become one of the Midlands most successful businessmen, forming an employment agency for domestic staff.

MEMORY LANE

By Mark Andrews

Now the remarkable life of Africanus could soon form part of the history curriculum in schools following a lottery-funded project researching his rags to riches story.

It is thought George Africanus was probably brought by a Bristol sea captain from Sierra Leone in 1763, and given as a present to the wealthy Molineux family, who had made their fortune as ironmasters and bankers. Benjamin Molineux, whose father John had set up as an ironmaster in Horseley Fields, Wolverhampton, acquired the sprawling Molineux House in Tup Street in 1732, as part of a deal worth £700.

And it was here where George Africanus' spent his formative years. Ordinarily, somebody of his background would have become just another downtrodden slave. However Benjamin Molineux and his son George appeared to demonstrate an unusual benevolence, treating him almost as a member of their own family.

He was taught to read and write, trained as a hairdresser, and was even allowed to take up an apprenticeship as a brass founder.

Now, a party of historians based in Nottingham, where Africanus made his money, travelled to Wolverhampton to see documents relating to his early life – at the archives centre at Molineux House, where Africanus spent his formative years. Nine members from the Belong Nottingham charity, which looks at aspects of ethnic minority culture in the city, called into the Wolverhampton Archive Centre to see the documents it held.

The group has secured a £69,000 lottery grant which it is using to develop a teaching programme to be used in schools.

The earliest record relating to him states that he was baptised at St Peter's Church on March 31, 1766, and this may have been a clue to the family's intentions.

Belief

Wolverhampton playwright and historian Jefny Ashcroft, who has researched his life, said: "It was a commonly held belief at the time that if a slave had been baptised they were legally a free person. Thus the Molineuxs may have deliberately had George christened to show their future good intentions.

At the age of 14 the family arranged for him to take up an apprenticeship with a Wolverhampton brass-founder, and the skills he learned put him in good stead for when in 1784 he set off for a new life in Nottingham, at the age of 21.

The family had connections in Nottingham and Africanus used the variety of skills he learned in Wolverhampton to make his way in Nottingham, taking up jobs as a waiter, hairdresser, and in a brass foundry, and in 1878 he was sufficiently well established to marry a local woman, Esther Shaw.

He invested in property, which he rented out, and this also allowed him to vote as a 'freeman', as well as enabling him to serve on the local Watch Committee.

And when it became evident that slavery was going to be abolished in 1772, the enterprising former slave spotted a business opportunity.

As slave owners started getting rid of their servants, often turfing them penniless out onto the streets, he and his wife Esther set up an employment agency placing destitute ex-slaves in paid positions as servants.

George returned to Wolverhampton, perhaps for the last time, in 1800, bringing his child, Sarah to be baptised at St Peter's church. He died in 1834.

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Landlords face new rules over migrants

NEW legislation which will see landlords face fines if they rent homes to illegal immigrants without checking their 'right to rent' is being launched in the West Midlands

Immigration and Security Minister James Brokenshire announced measures in the Immigration Act would be launched in areas including the Black Country as part of a phased introduction across the country.

The new law will mean private landlords will have to check the right of prospective tenants to be in the country if they want to avoid potentially being fined up to £3,000.

Immigration and Security Minister James Brokenshire said:"We are building an immigration system that is fair to British citizens and legitimate migrants and tough on those who abuse the system or flout the law.

"The right to rent checks will be quick and simple but will make it more difficult for immigration offenders to stay in the country when they have no right to be here. They will also act as a new line of attack against unscrupulous landlords who exploit people by renting out substandard, overcrowded and unsafe accommodation.

"Landlords in the West Midlands will have all the advice and support they need in advance of the checks going live on December 1."

A helpline on 0300 069 9799 is available.

Commissioner wants speed cameras switched back on

SPEED cameras could be turned back on in the Black Country as the new police and crime commissioner pledged to work on cutting down the number of people killed and injured on the roads.

David Jamieson said switching the fixed devices back one was one of his top priorities – despite West Midlands Police facing almost £100million of cuts over the next four years.

The 67-year-old former Labour transport minister said the cameras were proven to reduce fatalities on the roads.

Community

But he admitted it was unlikely all cameras would be turned back on, promising only to turn on devices where there had been a casualty and the local community wanted them.

The pledge comes as a trial is being launched by the West Midlands Road Safety Partnership, which includes Birmingham City Council and West Midlands Police, for 12 fixed speed cameras in Birmingham.

Mr Jamieson said: "From 2001 to 2005, I was dealing with a road safety brief, we started to reel out cameras, with local people determining where they wanted to cameras to go.

"Unfortunately one of the first acts of the coalition Government was to stop that. The burden of costs fell with the police and councils and we ultimately saw the cameras switched off.

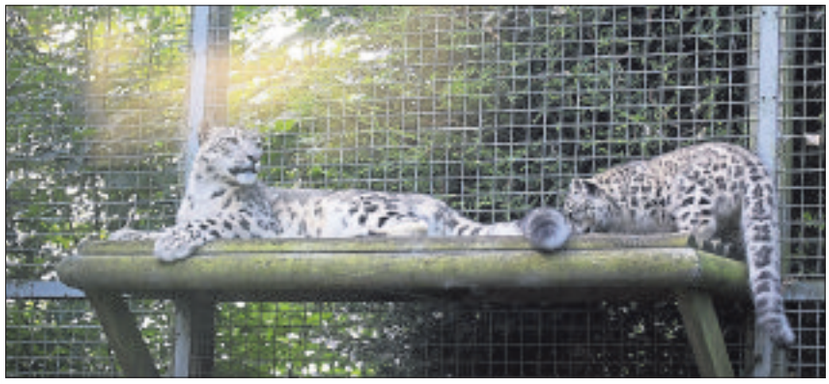
By Alex Ross

"Birmingham and Solihull have said we want cameras back and they are working with officers to see how we can fund those cameras and put them in areas where the local communities say they are needed. I am hoping we can eventually find funding to put the cameras back in housing across the West Midlands, including the Black Country, where people need them."

Mr Jamieson said money raised by speeding motorists taking driver awareness courses could be spent on turning on some of the cameras. He added: "The culture on the road has changed – people now see speeding as unacceptable, when perhaps in the past it wasn't looked on so badly. A lot of people are extremely responsible but this is about making it difficult for those going too fast on our roads."

Mr Jamieson took over from the late Bob Jones at a by-election which had a 10.41 per cent turn-out.

Young snow leopard tests climbing skills



Five-month-old snow leopard Makalu has been busy testing his climbing skills in a bid to join his mother Nanga

A YOUNG snow leopard has made his first appearance in his new enclosure at Dudley Zoo.

Five-month-old snow leopard Makalu has been busy testing his climbing skills in a bid to join his mother Nanga.

The youngster was born on April 17 but has just ventured out into the external enclosure at the Castle Hill for the first time after spending his few months bonding with mum.

Keepers kept a close eye on the young leopard who has been busy exploring the outdoor area's new sights, sounds and smells.

Despite his juvenile curiosity, Makalu still does not stray too far from his mother, watched on by visitors who have been able to watch his every move unfold.

Dudley Zoo curator Matt Lewis said: "Makalu loves being outside and is spending his time climbing, jumping and stalking mum. It will be a few weeks yet until he's built up his muscle strength enough to jump up to the highest platforms in the enclosure but he's a very determined little cub and he's having a good go already."

Kkeepers are delighted with his progress and hope his father Margaash will soon join the family line-up when they introduce him to his offspring later this month

The snow leopard is native to the mountain ranges of Central Asia. They live between 3,000 and 5,500 metres above sea level on mountain slopes. Their paws are wide and this helps distribute their weight when walking on snow.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Folk singer stages a home town show

A TALENTED folk blues guitarist and singer-song writer is returning to the Black Country for a home town gig this month.

Sunjay Brayne was nominated in the BBC Radio 2 Young Folk Awards. The 20-year-old is performing at the Woodman Folk Club, based at Ashwood Marina, near Kingswinford, on September 19.

Sunjay, from Kingswinford, releases his third album, called Sunjay on September 29 and is embarking on a 40-date tour the UK.

The show starts at the venue, in Ashwood Lower Lane, at 8pm. Tickets are £6 members and £7 non-members.

Call (01384) 560462 or visit www.woodmanfolk.co.uk for details.

Borough fails to join crime decline

BUSINESS crime claims fell in the West Midlands by nine per cent over the past year. But the fall was less than the average decline across the UK of 31 per cent.

AXA Business Insurance said that its annual claims data showed dramatic drops in business crime rates across the country but the average cost of crime to businesses was going up.

Dudley was one of the few places in the country to register a slight rise in its business crime rate after several years of falling claims.

AXA said there had been a decrease in business crime, including thefts, arson and vandalism, across most postcode areas.

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Airport has had busiest month yet

BIRMINGHAM Airport had the busiest month in its history during August.

The airport, currently celebrating its 75th anniversary, saw more than a million passengers coming through the gates with most heading off on their summer holidays.

The figure of 1,104,831 smashed the previous monthly record, achieved back in August 2008, by 2.3 per cent.

It was the fifth consecutive record-breaking month for the airport, as April, May, June and July also saw previous monthly records smashed.

Last month's numbers were also an increase of 5.2 per cent over August last year.

It also saw a one per cent increase in long haul passenger traffic with flights operating to Beijing, Dubai, Delhi, Egypt, Islamabad, Jamaica, Mexico, New York and Toronto in August.

Chief executive Paul Kehoe said: "Passengers are voting with their feet and more and more are choosing to fly from Birmingham. The demand is clearly there, but we want to make sure this trend continues.

"We've invested significantly in recent years, including a newly extended runway, which allows departing aircraft to fly to more long haul destinations than ever before."

School meals — no such thing as a free lunch?

THERE is no such thing as a free lunch, according to the old saying.

And while youngsters up to the age of seven are now able to tuck into a school meal without their parents having to pay, as part of a drive to get kids eating healthier, it has come at a cost.

The Government has provided £1 billion to meet the costs of providing meals across the UK available to all pupils without means testing over the next two years.

By Tim Spiers

A total of £150 million has been made available to improve schools' kitchen and dining facilities, with an additional £22.5m specifically to help smaller schools.

It is also hoped that the availability of free school meals will help reduce the obesity problem, with around 20 per cent of children currently classed as obese when they leave primary school.

Around 57,000 children in the West Midlands are benefitting from the change which came into force at the start of the new school term, with families saving on average £400 per child across the school year.

The Children's Society says the policy will help those who need it most with around 9,000 youngsters from low income families in the region that may not have previously qualified for a meal now getting one.

Sandwell youngsters will benefit the most, with 1,312 children from deprived backgrounds getting their daily meal, compared to 878 in Walsall, 869 in Wolverhampton and 622 in Dudley.

But while there are few will argue with the principle of ensuring children get a healthy, balanced lunch, there have been concerns about the strains being placed on the local authorities which have had to put the plans in practice.

Councillor Tim Crumpton from Dudley added: "We received £855,308 from the Government for the free school meals programme. We are currently working out the best way of making sure we can provide a free school meals service using the money given to us.

"We believe we are giving the best service we can given the limited funding and reduced timescales we had to do this."

2,000 take to streets for city marathon

10K winner Phil Nicholls with Dan Brazier second, left, and Tipton Harrier Dean Hill third

MORE than 2,000 people competed in various elements of the Carver Wolverhampton City Marathon but only one took part in two.

Simon Groom became the first person in the history of the event to be allowed to both run and cycle.

The 41-year-old engineer from Wheaton Aston did the 12.4 mile cycle ride with two-year-old daughter Emilia on the back of his bike flanked by partner Annmarie and daughter Maddie on their bikes – then ran the half marathon solo long after the other competitors had left the start line on Sunday.

Race Director Mary Harding explained: "We are trying to promote family participation so we allowed him to do both events."

The marathon was won by Mike Flatley from Oldham in 2hrs 40mins 27secs.

Phil Nicholls, 30, from Perton, a member of Wolverhampton and Bilston athletics club, strode to an emphatic victory in the 10k run in 31:12, nearly five minutes ahead of the others, including second placed club mate Dan Brazier.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Have a say on zero hours contracts

RESIDENTS are being urged to have their say on zero-hour contracts. There has been criticism that staff given the contracts do not know if they have work from one week to the next.

Under the contracts employees agrees to be available for work as and when required but no particular number of hours or times of work are specified.Up to a million workers are under these contracts.

Dudley North MP Ian Austin is rging people to have their say by visiting www.gov.uk/government/consultations and clicking the link for zero hours employment contracts. He said: "People in Dudley on zero-hours contracts have told me it's impossible for them to budget from one week to the next."

Heritage sites opening for free

MUSEUMS and historic properties across the Black Country will be throwing open their doors to the public for free this week. Venues will be taking part in Heritage Open Days, an initiative to promote England's architecture.

For the first time Dudley Archives and Local History Centre will be taking part after moving to its new home next to the Black Country Living Museum. Kingswinford War Walks will be held from St Mary's Church, plus events at the Quaker Meeting House, Plowden & Thompson and Tudor Crystal at Dial Glassworks.

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The Scouts at the unveiling of their War Memorial in 2014

The Air Scouts in 1970, in front of their Anson aircraft

Air Scout trying out one of the resident aircraft for size

The birth of the Halfpenny Green Air Scouts on August 16, 1964 with their Proctor aircraft

Air scouts still flying high – 50 years on

MEMORY LANE

By Alec Brew

ON October 25, 2014 the Halfpenny Green Air Scouts are due to celebrate 50 years of existence.

They are the only Air Scout Group in the Midlands, out of 140, and are one of the 50 plus recognised by the RAF.

The Air Scouts were formed in 1941, for air-minded kids who were too young for the Air Training Corps.

Donated

The Halfpenny Green Group were formed on October 16, 1964, based in a building on Halfpenny Green airfield, where they remain to this day.

At their inauguration they were able to show off their Percival Proctor aircraft which had been donated to them by Mr Frank Flavell.

In 1968 a new section called Venture Scouts for older children aged 14-18 was formed and a twin engined Avro Anson aircraft was donated by the RAF.

The two aircraft suffered from the weather over the years and a certain amount of vandalism and were donated to museums, but the group still owns a Slingsby T-31 glider.

The Group meet every weekend and are privileged to be one of the few groups based on an active airfield, taking an active part in airport events.

In 2011 a new group scout leader, Karl Owen instituted two new sections.

They were the Air Beavers aged 6-8 and Air Cubs aged 8-10, and all sections are thriving, but are always on the lookout for new members.

In 2014 the Group raised the money to create a long-desired war memorial for the wartime airfield, and airport manager Alistair MacKinnon allowed it to be sited at the main entrance.

As every year the group hold a Battle of Britain War Memorial service at the airfield on Battle of Britain Day which will be on Sunday, September 14.

Special

All past members, friends or leaders are invited to a special 50th anniversary commemoration event to be held at the airfield on October 25.

This is a private event, and to book your place contact Karl Owen on 01384-221010, 07869772196 or you can instead email to karlo.hgas@gmail.com

The Venture Scouts birth in1968, and the hand-over of the Anson

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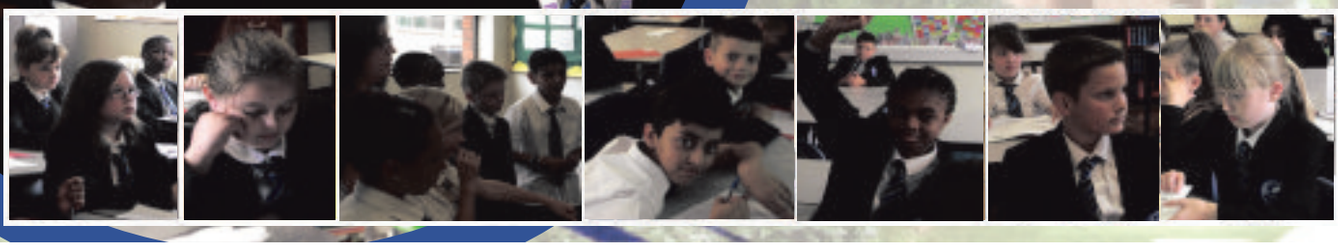

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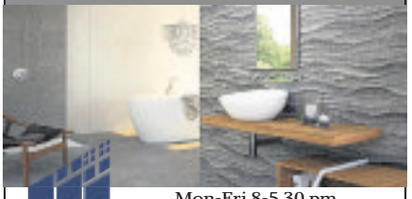

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Sofa, so good – Joan, on the left and Jessie, neither of whom have ever got married

Again, Joan on the left, seen during a trip to the countryside

The twins as bridesmaids at the wedding of their uncle George and his

The twins seen as young girls during the 1920s

The twins are seen as toddlers with their mother just after the end of the First World War

Joan and Jessie – twins inseparable since birth

MEMORY LANE

By Lisa O'Brien

THEY have been inseparable since birth. Identical twins Joan and Jessie Baker went to the same schools, had the same jobs and have lived together in the Black Country for nearly all of their lives.

The 96-year-olds were born in Wolverhampton Road, Pelsall, in 1918 a few months before the end of the First World War, with Joan 20 minutes older than her sister.

They have spent many of the years since then living and working together and although they now live apart – all be it round the corner from each other – they still meet up each day to enjoy dinner together.

The sisters, who attended Pelsall Infants School and School Lane secondary school in the village, say they have fond memories of growing up.

"Whatever I did, she did and whatever she did, I did," Jessie said.

"We have always been together. We just grew part of one another.

"We were always a family together, we used to go to the seaside in Wales. Mum was a children's nurse and dad was a miner."

They lived in Wolverhampton Road, Pelsall until they were 21, before moving to another home on the same street with their parents. After their mother Alice died in 1970, following the death of their father Joseph, they both moved into a flat in Charles Crescent, Pelsall.

It was six years ago when they made the move to become neighbours rather than housemates after moving to separate flats on the same street in Rushall before Jessie moved to another home around the corner two years ago.

The pair first worked together at a leather factory in Frederick Street, Walsall, making purses, cases and belts. They then left to work at a munitions factory in Darlaston were they were involved in finishing and polishing shells during the Second World War. Joan said: "We both worked at Darlaston Naval Shells. Jess used to have the shells and put a screw in the top. I used to grease the bottom and put a cap on."

Although they spent short periods apart while Joan became a shop worker and Jessie took up an office role, the sisters worked together again as shop assistants at Hetherington Chemists, in High Street, Pelsall.

Joan spent 25 years of her life there, while Jessie worked there for 15 years.

Away from the world of work the twins, who have never married or had children, are both keen knitters and have even won prizes together for their gardening abilities.

They helped to create a communal garden outside their home four years ago which won them first prize in a competition.

They were nominated for a Walsall Housing Group Community Spirit award by a neighbour who felt they deserved recognition.

Judges agreed and awarded the sisters first place in the Community Garden Champion category of the Community Spirit awards.

John on the left with Jessie, as they are today

The oldest living twins from Walsall? Joan, left, and Jessie Baker, both aged 96, take a look at some old photographs

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In Tokyo see its most fascinating districts, including the shopping and entertainment mecca of Ginza and the Akihabara electronic town – home to one of the first stores devoted to personal robots. Then to the north of the city there's the scenic area Nikko National Park, relatively unknown outside Japan. Surrounded by breathtaking lakes, waterfalls, forests and hot springs, a visit is made to one of the country's most extraordinary shrines - dedicated to one of it's great Shogun warriors.

Kyoto, still considered to be its cultural heart has carefully retained far more of historical Japan than any other major city. With exquisite shrines, temples, Zen gardens and traditional handicrafts, the city is an absolute treasure-trove.

Nara, Japan's first capital, dates back to the eighth century. Here, traditional culture first took root and is famous for its great Buddhist monuments including a large bronze buddha as well as time-honoured festivals.

Hiroshima is forever destined to be synonymous with the world's first use of an atomic bomb and a visit is made to the Peace Memorial Park and museum, with the shattered remains of the nearby dome marking the epicentre of the blast.

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Singing Lenny is boosting his Rep

DUDLEY comedian turned actor Lenny Henry, currently starring in Rudy's Rare Records at Birmingham Rep, will be talking about his career in a special event at the Centenary Square theatre on Saturday at 5pm, being recorded by BBC Radio 3. Later that day, at 10pm, Lenny turns soul man with Poor White Trash and The Little Big Horns at the Rep Studio.

The Faulty Towers Dining Experience (don't ask for the Waldorf Salad) is being held at the Rep Banqueting Suites until Sunday, which is also the annual Open Day at the city playhouse. The Russian Doctor, based on a remarkable episode from the life of Anton Chekhov, is at the Rep Door tonight, tomorrow and Saturday.

Stand Up & Rock with Jasper and co

COMEDIAN Jasper Carrott is teaming up with some of his Brummie musician mates for the Stand Up & Rock tour, that is coming to Wolverhampton Grand Theatre on Tuesday.

The evening will include stand-up comedy from Jasper plus music from Bev Bevan and Trevor Burton, formerly of 1960s hitmakers The Move, the Rockin Berries' Geoff Turton and Joy Strachan-Brain from Celtic rockers Quill.

The tour also goes to Dudley Town Hall on October 16 , Birmingham Town Hall on October 21, Sutton Coldfield Town Hall on October 30 and 31.

Rising star is on brink of the big time thanks to Saturdays

Faggots, Fizzogs and fun

THE Black Country Living Museum in Dudley has put together its own version of tapas dishes— delicacies such as grorty dick, faggots, gray paes and bacon — to celebrate its's Black Country Night at the Tipton Road museum on Saturday from 6.30 to 10pm.

The evening of food and fun will feature several acts including The Empty Can, who were behind the Black Country anthem I Vow to Thee My Black Country, and internet sensations The Fizzogs, known for their Dancing Grannies comedy routine which went viral. Plus choir Got2Sing.

Musicians such as Brett Huckfield and Linda Simpson will appear alongside a tribute to local legend Dolly Allen, marking 70 years since her first stand-up routine in 1944. James Stevens, from The Empty Can, said: "There will be an outdoor stage so there will be a real festival atmosphere."

Call 0121 520 8054.

James Stevens from The Empty Can and Craig Lewis who is head chef at the museum

FOR Beth Sherburn it took one moment in the spotlight as a child to give birth to a dream.

The nerves subsided as she took to the stage at The Straits Primary School to give her first solo performance. Afterwards, as the audience cheered, she decided to follow her dream of becoming a singer.

Fast forward to today and Beth, from Gornal, is ready to take her big step to stardom. The 23-year-old is celebrating being picked to support girl group The Saturdays on their Greatest Hits tour, arriving at Birmingham's NIA on Monday.

It caps a meteoric rise for Beth over the past two years since being discovered singing while she worked behind the perfume counter at Debenhams at the Merry Hill shopping centre. She caught the attention of John McLaughlin — the man behind Take That, Girls Aloud and Busted — while singing the Michael Bublé hit Christmas to herself in November 2012.

It was a fairytale story for Beth who quit her job to sign a record deal and within weeks was achieving chart success with her debut single, a cover of Duran Duran's Ordinary World which entered the UK Club charts.

"It has been an amazing few months," she said. "When I heard that I was going to be supporting The Saturdays I was so happy. "

She can still remember the encouraging words of primary school headteacher Adrian Slack who gave her the confidence to take on her first solo, a version of Celine Dion's Falling into You.

Dudley singer Beth Sherburn

"He was amazing and really helped me," she said. "When I performed that first time it brought me out of my shell and I immediately knew what I wanted to do and that's be a singer."

Her mother Sarah is a registrar in Dudley and father Graeme works for Dudley Council. Beth, who also attended Ellowes Hall Sports College, said they have always supported her and her sisters Leah and Ellie.

Cats on the prowl again after revamp

HIT musical Cats is in Birmingham before returning to the West End.

The latest revival of Andrew Lloyd Webber's show — now featuring a rapping cat — opened at Birmingham's Hippodrome Theatre this week and runs until September 27 on its last stop before heading to the London Palladium.

Cats first opened in the West End in 1981 and ran for a record-breaking 21 years, playing almost 9,000 performances. On Broadway it ran for 18 years and has been performed in 26 countries.

Zizi Strallen plays Demeter in the current cast, following in the footsteps of her West End star sister Summer Strallen and her aunt Bonnie Langford, also former Cats performers.

Jane is preparing for her Grand gig

SINGER and TV star Jane McDonald bring her latest tour to Wolverhampton Grand Theatre on Wednesday, September 17.

The former cruise ship entertainer who became one of TV's Loose Women will perform a selection of songs from her latest album The Singer of Your Song. She will also sing some of her best-loved tunes from throughout her career, including some of her own compositions.

The show will start at 7.30pm with tickets priced between £19.50 and £34.50. Club singer Jane shot to fame after being featured on docusoap The Cruise. To book tickets call 01902 429212.

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CHOICE

Nadia Comaneci

Tumble: The Grand Final (BBC1, 6pm)

Andrea McLean, Emma Samms and John Partridge are among those who have already been voted off the show. Now it's the final, and it's anybody's guess who will win the BBC's inaugural celebrity gymnastics contest and that coveted trophy. Over the past few weeks there's been some impressive work from the likes of ex-Blue Peter presenter Peter Duncan, one of the oldest gymnasts on the show, and actor Bobby Lockwood, one of the youngest. Now the six finalists and their professional partners hope to win over viewers with their floor and aerial trapeze challenges. For the final time this series, host Alex Jones welcomes the judges, Olympic gymnast Nadia Comaneci, Team GB medallist Louis Smith, former Commonwealth Games champion Craig Heap and aerial choreographer Sebastien Stella.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** The Great British Bake Off: An Extra Slice. (R) **12.00** BBC News; Weather. **12.10** Football Focus. **12.50** Saturday Sportsday. **1.00** Live Invictus Games. The third day of the event. **4.30** Final Score. **5.10** Celebrity Mastermind. (R) **5.40** BBC News; Regional News; Weather.

6.00 Tumble: The Grand Final. The six finalists perform a series of routines and challenges, including the dreaded vault, in the hope that viewers will choose them as the winner. Last in the series.

7.30 Doctor Who. So far, the latest incarnation of the gallivanting Gallifreyan has dealt with steampunk-style androids in Victorian London, delved into the inner workings of a Dalek and forged an unlikely alliance with Robin Hood. This week, during a trip with Clara to the end of the universe, he will come face to face with something or someone that chills him to the bone. But what could frighten a man who has spent most of his very long life battling the galaxy's most terrifying aliens? Could it be ghosts from the Time Lord's past and future that send shivers down his spine? And what exactly happens when the Doctor is alone and afraid? Sci-fi drama, starring Peter Capaldi, Jenna Coleman and Samuel Anderson.

8.20 The National Lottery: In It to Win It. Dale Winton hosts the quiz in which five contestants answer questions to scoop a big cash prize. Includes the Lotto and Thunderball draws with Gaby Roslin.

9.10 Last Night of the Proms. Sakari Oramo takes to the podium to conduct the concluding part of this year's Proms finale, featuring violinist Janine Jansen and baritone Roderick Williams. Highlights of the Last Night celebrations from all four parks can be seen via the red button.

10.35 BBC News; Weather.

10.50 Match of the Day. Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League clashes, including Arsenal v Manchester City, Chelsea v Swansea City and Liverpool v Aston Villa; National Lottery Update.

12.25 The Football League Show. **1.45** Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.50** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 Film: The Falcon in Danger. (1943) **7.10 Film:** The Falcon in Mexico. (1944) **8.20 Film:** Home on the Range. (2004) **9.30** The Trials of Life. (R) **10.20** The Trials of Life. (R) **11.10** The Trials of Life. (R) **12.00** Rick Stein's German Bite. (R) **1.00** Judi Dench: Talking Pictures. **1.35 Film:** The Importance of Being Earnest. (2002) Oscar Wilde comedy, starring Rupert Everett and Colin Firth. **3.05** Escape to the Country. (R) **4.05** Tropic of Capricorn. (R) **5.05** Alex Polizzi: The Fixer. (R)

6.05 Flog It! Paul Martin helps individuals make money selling their antiques at auction in Oldham, Greater Manchester. With experts Anita Manning and Kate Bliss.

7.00 Dad's Army. Captain Mainwaring lets Frazer take charge of the platoon, gambling that a taste of authority will give him a more responsible attitude. (R)

7.30 Last Night of the Proms. In the first of two programmes tonight, Katie Derham introduces the final concert of the season in the 120th year of the classical music event at London's Royal Albert Hall. The programme includes William Walton's Popular Song from Facade and Malcolm Arnold's Peterloo Overture – its first performance in a new choral version with lyrics by Tim Rice. Plus, the Strauss anniversary celebrations conclude with Taillefer. Coverage continues on BBC1 at 9.10pm.

9.00 The Invictus Games. Action from the third day of the Paralympic-style multi-sport event from London, which is designed for wounded soldiers.

10.00 QI XL. Stephen Fry hosts an extended edition of the peculiar panel quiz, with Sandi Toksvig, Bill Bailey, Susan Calman and Alan Davies answering questions on places that start with J. (R)

10.45 TOTP2. Presenter Mark Radcliffe trawls through the archives, unearthing clips of Mott the Hoople, Terry Wogan, the Spice Girls, Blondie and the Smiths. (R)

11.45 Film: Summer. (2008) A middle-aged man learns his childhood best friend is dying and is forced to confront past mistakes that may have ruined several lives. Drama, with Robert Carlyle and Steve Evets.

1.05 Film: Female Agents. (2008) **2.55** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. **6.25** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.35** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.40** Dino Dan. (R) **6.50** Dino Dan. (R) **7.05** Canimals. (R) **7.10** Canimals. (R) **7.20** Om Nom Stories. (R) **7.25** Sooty. (R) **7.40** Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **7.55** Matt Hatter Chronicles. **8.20** Nerds & Monsters. (R) **8.30** Chowder. (R) **8.45** Chowder. (R) **9.00** The Aquabats Super Show. (R) **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** The Hungry Sailors. (R) **10.25** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **11.20** ITV News; Weather. **11.30 Film:** Columbo: Now You See Him. (1976) **1.15** Catchphrase. (R) **2.00** All Star Family Fortunes. (R) **3.00** The X Factor. (R) **4.00 Film:** The Queen. (2006) Oscar-winning biographical drama, starring Helen Mirren.

6.05 Regional Programme; Weather.

6.15 ITV News; Weather.

6.30 You've Been Framed! Surreal comedy from the mind of Harry Hill, inspired by viewers' videos. Holly Willoughby's husband risks everything to catch a glimpse of her in the nude. (R)

7.00 The Chase: Celebrity Special. Strictly Come Dancing judge Len Goodman, former Olympic swimmer Mark Foster, model Amy Willerton and Eternal's Kelle Bryan take on a trivia expert.

8.00 The X Factor. The acts who wowed the judges at the closed-room auditions now face round two – appearing not just in front of judges Simon Cowell, Cheryl Fernandez-Versini, Mel B and Louis Walsh, but also an audience of nearly 5,000 people at the more intimidating setting of Wembley Arena. Dermot O'Leary offers words of encouragement backstage as well as a shoulder to cry on for those who fail to impress.

9.20 Through the Keyhole. Jimmy Carr, Natalie Anderson and Dave Berry make up this week's panel as Keith Lemon tours mystery homes and challenges them to guess the identities of the famous occupants.

10.20 ITV News; Weather.

10.40 Film: United 93. (2006) Fact-based drama about the fourth plane hijacked in the September 11 attacks, which was stopped from reaching its target by the passengers. With Christian Clemenson and Trish Gates.

12.35 Jackpot247. **3.00** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) **3.40** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.10 NFL: Rush Zone. **6.40** Trans World Sport. **7.35** The Grid. **8.00** The Morning Line. **9.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.55** Frasier. (R) **10.25** Frasier. (R) **10.55** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.20** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.50** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.15** The Simpsons. (R) **12.45** The Simpsons. (R) **1.10** Gadget Man. (R) **1.40** Channel 4 Racing. Coverage of live racing from Doncaster and Chester. **4.10** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.40** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.10** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.45** Come Dine with Me. (R)

6.15 Come Dine with Me. Mental-health nurse Lloyd Cast hosts the final dinner party from the West Midlands and has planned a chilled evening to allow his food to take centre stage. (R)

6.45 Channel 4 News.

7.05 Sarah Beeny's Double Your House for Half the Money. The property expert meets families pooling their resources to live together under one roof, including the Osbornes from Essex, who want to create a modern mansion for £150,000. (R)

8.00 Grand Designs. Product designer Rebecca Sturrock has returned to her family home in Cornwall with her partner Gregory Kewish and a highly ambitious plan. Together they hope to transform a small, damp bungalow into a cutting-edge home to share with their twin three-year-old daughters – all for just £80,000. The design is radical – to reinforce the walls of the old property and add a new living space on top to take advantage of the views. (R)

9.00 Peter Kay: Live & Back on Nights! Part Two. Part two of two. The comedian provides a behind-the-scenes look at his 18 months on the road throughout 2010 and 2011, playing 140 stand-up shows for 1.2 million fans. (R)

10.00 Film: Sleepy Hollow. (1999) A sceptical 18th-century detective takes on a headless horseman who decapitates his victims. Tim Burton's gothic horror, with Johnny Depp, Christina Ricci and Miranda Richardson.

12.05 Alan Carr: Chatty Man. With Jack Whitehall, Jon Richardson, Matt Forde and Kasabian. (R) **1.05 Film:** The Darjeeling Limited. (2007) **2.40** Homeland. (R) **3.35** Hollyoaks. **5.40** Street Velodrome.

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.00** Access. **10.05** The Secret Life of Pets. (R) **10.30** Police Interceptors. (R) **11.25** Ultimate Police Interceptors. (R) **12.25** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.25 Film:** The Big Country. (1958) Western, starring Gregory Peck. **4.40 Film:** Wyatt Earp. (1994) The story of the legendary lawman, from his youth to his days as deputy marshal of Tombstone and the gunfight at the OK Corral. Western, starring Kevin Costner and Dennis Quaid. Edited for violence and language.

8.10 World War II in Colour. Actor Robert Powell narrates the story of the global conflict, told using colourised archive footage, state-of-the-art terrain mapping and cutting-edge computer graphics and based on government papers and previously classified files. The first edition examines how political and economic chaos in the aftermath of the First World War allowed Hitler in Germany, Mussolini in Italy and ultra-nationalists in imperial Japan to seize power, with the failure of Britain, France and the United States to confront initial acts of aggression being seen as signs of weakness. (R)

9.15 5 News Weekend.

9.20 Most Shocking Reality TV Moments. A celebration of the nation's long-running love affair with reality TV, showcasing the 50 most memorable moments from some of the best-loved shows such as TOWIE, Jersey Shore and Made in Chelsea. The bumper countdown includes the time George Galloway came over all feline on Celebrity Big Brother, Gillian McKeith's dramatic fainting episodes on I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here!, and Bobby Davro's belly flop on The Games. Featuring contributions by Calum Best, Charlotte Crosby, Amy Childs, Paul Danan, Janice Dickinson, Dane Bowers and Vanessa Feltz.

12.15 SuperCasino. **3.10** Once Upon a Time. Cora sends Hook to retrieve the magic compass, while Rumpelstiltskin and Regina concoct a plan to destroy the portal and kill anyone who tries to use it to reach Storybrooke. (R) **4.00** House Doctor. Ann Maurice heads for Sandhurst, Berkshire, where she offers advice to the owner of a four-bedroom house that has been left with a distinctly unfinished feeling. (R) **4.25** Make It Big. (R) **5.15** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.40** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three

7.00 Great Movie Mistakes V: Revenge of the Fifth **7.15** Pop's Greatest Dance Crazes **7.45 Film:** Streetdance (2010) **9.15 Film:** Tropic Thunder (2008) **10.55** Family Guy **1.35** Seann Walsh's Late Night Comedy Spectacular 2014 **2.30** Sexy Beasts **3.00** Fried **3.25** Parents' Evening **3.50** Close

BBC Four

7.00 Human Planet **8.00** Survivors: Nature's Indestructible Creatures **9.00** Crimes of Passion **10.25** Seven Ages of Starlight **11.55** Chas & Dave: Last Orders **12.55** London Songs at the BBC **1.55** Human Planet **2.55** Survivors: Nature's Indestructible Creatures **3.55** Close

ITV2

11.15 The X Factor **1.35** Take Me Out **2.50** You've Been Framed! Top 100 Weddings **3.45** Funniest Ever You've Been Framed! **4.50** You've Been Framed! **5.15 Film:** Casper (1995) **7.10 Film:** Dungeons and Dragons (2000) **9.20** The Xtra Factor **10.20** Celebrity Juice **11.05** The X Factor **12.20** The Xtra Factor **1.20** Plebs **2.05** Two and a Half Men **2.50** Teleshopping **5.50** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3

12.40 Lewis **2.50** A Touch of Frost **4.55** Inspector Morse **7.00** Lewis **9.00** Midsomer Murders **11.00** Bomb Girls **12.05 Film:** Till Death Us Do Part (1969) **2.00** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping

ITV4

11.55 Cycling: Tour of Britain **1.00** Cycling: Tour of Britain Live. Stage seven from Camberley to Brighton. **4.00** Storage Wars **4.25** British Touring Car Championship Highlights **6.00** FIA Formula E Championship **7.00** Cycling: Vuelta a Espana **8.00** Cycling: Tour of Britain **9.00 Film:** Live and Let Die (1973) **11.30 Film:** The Boat That Rocked (2009) **2.05** Cycling: Vuelta a Espana **3.00** Teleshopping **3.30** The Store **4.30** Teleshopping

E4

11.30 Melissa & Joey **12.30 Film:** Coraline (2009) **2.35** How I Met Your Mother **3.30** The Big Bang Theory **5.30** Made in Chelsea NYC **6.35** The 100 **7.30** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **8.00** The Big Bang Theory **9.00 Film:** Die Hard (1988) **11.45** The Big Bang Theory **12.45** Virtually Famous **1.35** Almost Royal **2.10** How I Met Your Mother **2.55** The Ricky Gervais Show **4.15** Glee **4.55** Desperate Housewives

Film4

11.00 Gift Horse (1952) **1.00** Star Trek: The Motion Picture (1979) **3.35** The Son of Robin Hood (1958) **5.10** Mr Popper's Penguins (2011) **7.00** Stormbreaker (2006) **9.00** Kingdom of Heaven (2005) **12.40** Saw IV (2007) **2.25** Lake Tahoe (2008) **4.00** Close

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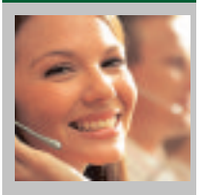

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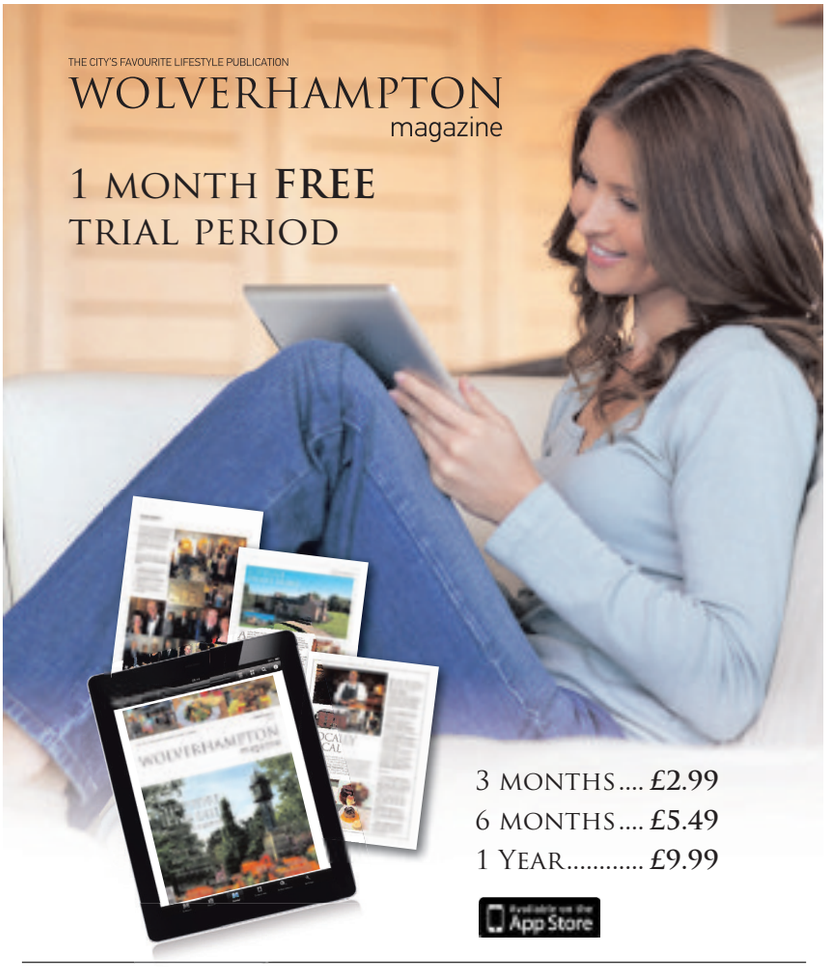

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MNA Media

CHOICE

Stephen Mulhern

Sunday Night at the Palladium (ITV, 7pm)

New series. After its initial run all those years ago between 1955 and 1967, followed by a brief revival during 1973 and 1974, the variety show makes its much-anticipated return with some of the UK's best-loved comedians and entertainers performing inside the West End theatre, including Rob Brydon, Jimmy Carr and Bradley Walsh. First up, though, presenting duties are handed over to entertainer Stephen Mulhern, who will be compering the show in front of the 2,200-strong audience. Guests include singing superstar Bryan Adams, girl band Little Mix, comic Alan Davies, speciality act Les Beaux Freres and quick-change duo David & Dania. Plus, tenor Alfie Boe, who will be performing Bring Him Home from Les Miserables.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **7.25** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** Sunday Morning Live. **11.00** Sunday Politics. **12.15** MOTD2 Extra. With Mark Chapman and the Match of the Day team. **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Live Invictus Games. The fourth and final day of the event. **4.15** Points of View. **4.30** The Great British Bake Off. (R) **5.30** Songs of Praise.

6.05 Deadly on a Mission: Pole to Pole. Steve Backshall and the crew reach the remote island of South Georgia, before travelling to Antarctica, their final destination, where the naturalist dives with a leopard seal.

6.35 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.

7.00 Countryfile. Jules Hudson is in Norfolk, where he gets privileged access to the Ministry of Defence training grounds – including a purpose-built Afghan village in the heart of the British countryside. Anita Rani explores the history of the humble shepherd's hut, and Charlotte Smith investigates how there are still large parts of rural Britain with little or no mobile phone coverage – and what is being done to remedy the situation. Shauna Lowry and Helen Skelton meet the teams representing Scotland and Wales in this year's One Man and His Dog competition. Including Weather for the Week Ahead.

8.00 Antiques Roadshow. New series. Fiona Bruce and the team visit Hillsborough Castle in Northern Ireland, where the experts advise the Queen about a curious collection of items in the royal residence.

9.00 The Village. Bill Gibby returns to the village as the new councillor for Sheffield and reveals his plans for a reservoir, while Martha and Eyre make plans for the future. Last in the series.

10.00 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.

10.30 Match of the Day 2. Mark Chapman presents highlights of Manchester United v Queens Park Rangers at Old Trafford in the Premier League.

11.20 Film: She's Out of My League. (2010) Romantic comedy, with Jay Baruchel, Alice Eve and Lindsay Sloane.

1.00 Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.05** BBC News.

BBC2

6.05 Countryfile. (R) **7.00** Monty Don's Italian Gardens. (R) **8.00** Gardeners' World. (R) **8.30** The Beechgrove Garden. **9.00** The Football League Show. (R) **10.20** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.50** Lorraine Pascale: How to Be a Better Cook. (R) **12.20** Paul Hollywood's Pies & Puds. (R) **12.50 Film:** Tycoon. (1947) Romantic drama, starring John Wayne and Laraine Day. **2.55** Escape to the Country. (R) **3.40** Flog It! **4.40** Equator. (R) **5.40** Penguins on a Plane: Great Animal Moves. (R)

6.40 Film: StreetDance 2. (2012) Premiere. A dancer tries to put a humiliating defeat in a contest behind him by assembling an international dance crew to compete in a high-profile European event. Drama, starring Falk Hentschel, Tom Conti and Sofia Boutella.

8.00 The Invictus Games – Closing Concert. For the past four days, wounded, sick and injured servicemen and women from across the world have been competing in a series of sporting events. But now the last medal has been won, it's time for them to unwind – and there's a host of stars lining up to help them celebrate their remarkable achievements at the Invictus Games Closing Concert. Clare Balding and Greg James present performances from Foo Fighters, Kaiser Chiefs, Ellie Goulding, Rizzle Kicks, Ryan Adams, the Vamps and Diversity, as well as a couple of acts for whom the Games may have an extra special meaning – former soldier James Blunt and the Military Wives Choirs. Plus, the athletes will also be given their moment in the spotlight during a medallion ceremony paying tribute to all the inspirational participants.

10.15 Mock the Week. Host Dara O Briain and regulars Hugh Dennis and Andy Parsons are joined by Ed Byrne, Gary Delaney, Katherine Ryan and Josh Widdicombe for the topical comedy quiz. (R)

10.45 Film: Blade Runner: The Final Cut. (1982) A detective is sent to kill four renegade androids searching for their creator in a bleak future Los Angeles. Ridley Scott's sci-fi thriller, with Harrison Ford and Rutger Hauer.

12.40 Dangerous Days: Making Blade Runner. **2.20** Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) **3.10** Holby City. (R) **4.10** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. **6.25** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.35** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.40** Dino Dan. (R) **6.50** Dino Dan. (R) **7.05** Canimals. (R) **7.10** Canimals. (R) **7.20** Om Nom Stories. (R) **7.25** Sooty. (R) **7.40** Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **7.55** Ultimate Spider-Man. **8.20** Nerds & Monsters. (R) **8.30** Big Time Rush. **9.00** The Aquabats Super Show. **9.25** Dickinson's Real Deal. (R) **10.25** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **11.25** ITV News; Weather. **11.30 Film:** Carry On Don't Lose Your Head. (1966) **1.15** The X Factor. (R) **2.30 Film:** Always. (1989) Romantic fantasy, with Richard Dreyfuss and Holly Hunter. **4.45** Midsomer Murders. (R)

6.35 Regional Programme; Weather.

6.45 ITV News; Weather.

7.00 Sunday Night at the Palladium. New series. Variety show from the West End theatre, featuring a different host each week. Stephen Mulhern welcomes Alfie Boe, Little Mix, Alan Davies and Bryan Adams to the stage.

8.00 The X Factor. Having proved themselves in front of the panel, the hopefuls now perform in front of an audience of almost 5,000 as the Wembley Arena auditions continue. Dermot O'Leary presents.

9.00 The Suspicions of Mr Whicher: The Ties That Bind. Hired by West Country landowner Sir Henry Coverley, Whicher takes on a seemingly straightforward case of infidelity, following his client's young wife as she meets her lover in London. However, when a key witness mysteriously fails to attend the divorce hearing, the investigation takes a dark twist, leading the private inquiry agent into the heart of the English countryside and to the most disturbing and destructive of secrets. Feature-length Victorian crime drama, starring Paddy Considine, with Helen Bradbury, Risteard Cooper and Alex Robertson.

11.00 ITV News; Weather.

11.20 Premiership Rugby Union. Highlights from the second weekend of the season, with matches including Harlequins v Saracens, Exeter Chiefs v Leicester Tigers and Wasps v Northampton Saints.

12.20 The Store. **2.55** Motorsport UK. **3.40** British Superbike Championship Highlights. **4.35** ITV Nightscreen. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.35 NFL: The American Football Show. (R) **7.30** British F3. **8.00** World Superbikes. **8.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** George Clarke's Amazing Spaces. (R) **1.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **2.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **2.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **2.55** The Simpsons. (R) **3.30 Film:** Star Trek: Generations. (1994) Sci-fi adventure sequel, starring Patrick Stewart and William Shatner. **5.45** Deal or No Deal.

6.40 Channel 4 News.

7.00 Richard Attenborough: A Life. A tribute to the late actor, director and social activist who died last month at the age of 90. Attenborough made his name with stand-out performances on the silver screen, including his chilling portrayal of hitman Pinkie Brown in Brighton Rock in 1947, before appearing as part of the all-star ensemble cast of The Great Escape in 1963. He later turned his attention to roles behind the camera with his Oscar-winning 1982 biopic Gandhi, before winning over a new generation of fans in the 1990s with memorable on-screen turns as eccentric theme park developer John Hammond in Jurassic Park and Kris "Santa Klaus" Kringle in the Miracle on 34th Street remake.

8.00 The Real Noah's Ark: Secret History. Inspired by his discovery of an ancient tablet shedding light on the biblical tale, Irving Finkel and a team of boat builders set out to construct a real Noah's ark.

9.00 Houdini. The legendary illusionist and escape artist conducts an epic battle against the spiritualists whose practices he believes to be fraudulent. As the 20th century progresses and a more modern era overtakes the industrial age, he finds himself forced to come to terms with his new place in a fast-changing world. Conclusion of the two-part drama, starring Adrien Brody in the title role.

10.50 Film: Jennifer's Body. (2009) A cheerleader is possessed by a flesh-eating demon and systematically seduces and devours the male population of her high school. Comedy horror, with Megan Fox and Amanda Seyfried.

12.45 American Football Live. **5.00** British F3. (R) **5.30** Kirstie's Vintage Gems. (R) **5.35** Hugh's 3 Good Things: Best Bites. **5.45** Deal or No Deal. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **6.15** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **6.30** Bubble Guppies. (R) **6.45** The Mr Men Show. (R) **7.00** Chloe's Closet. (R) **7.15** Olly the Little White Van. (R) **7.20** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **7.35** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **7.55** Little Princess. (R) **8.10** The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. (R) **8.25** Wanda and the Alien. **8.45** Rupert Bear. (R) **9.00** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.15** Jelly Jamm. (R) **9.30** LazyTown. (R) **10.00** Access. (R) **10.05** Police Interceptors. (R) **11.05** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.05** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.05 Film:** The Journey of Natty Gann. (1985) Disney adventure, starring Meredith Salenger. **3.00 Film:** What a Girl Wants. (2003) Comedy, starring Amanda Bynes. **5.00 Film:** Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory. (1971) Musical fantasy, with Gene Wilder.

7.05 5 News Weekend.

7.10 Film: The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen. (2003) Fearless hunter Allan Quatermain teams up with a host of other characters from Victorian literature – including Captain Nemo, the Invisible Man, Tom Sawyer and Dr Jekyll – to put a stop to the nefarious Fantom's evil plot to bring about a world war. Fantasy adventure, based on Alan Moore's comic-book series, starring Sean Connery, Shane West, Stuart Townsend and Tony Curran. Edited for daytime broadcast. Part of Movie Icons Day.

9.00 Film: The Rock. (1996) A renegade general and his crack team of mercenaries take over the abandoned fortress prison of Alcatraz and threaten San Francisco with toxic nerve-gas rockets to extort a massive ransom. To break their stranglehold on the city, the FBI sends in a chemical weapons expert and a jailed SAS veteran. Action thriller, with Sean Connery, Nicolas Cage and Ed Harris. Edited for language. Part of Movie Icons Day.

11.45 Film: Lord of War. (2005) A New York criminal gains access to a vast supply of Soviet weaponry and become one of the world's most notorious arms dealers. Thriller, starring Nicolas Cage and Ethan Hawke. Edited for language.

1.50 SuperCasino. **3.10** Once Upon a Time. (R) **4.00** House Doctor. (R) **4.25** Make It Big. (R) **5.15** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.40** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three

7.00 Top Gear **8.00** Doctor Who **8.50** Great Movie Mistakes 2: The Sequel **9.00** Russell Howard's Good News **10.00** Family Guy **10.45** Cuckoo **11.15** Siblings **11.45** American Dad! **12.30** Sexy Beasts **1.00** Seann Walsh's Late Night Comedy Spectacular 2014 **2.00** Cuckoo **2.30** Siblings **3.00** The Human Tissue Squad **4.00** Close

BBC Four

7.00 Vatican – The Hidden World **8.00** Byzantium: A Tale of Three Cities **9.00** British Art at War: Bomberg, Sickert and Nash **10.00** The Sky at Night **10.30** The Comet's Tale **11.30** Heavy Metal Britannia **1.00** Deep Purple – Made in Japan **2.00** Heavy Metal Britannia at the BBC **2.30** British Art at War: Bomberg, Sickert and Nash **3.30** Close

ITV2

12.00 America's Got Talent **1.45** Funniest Ever You've Been Framed! **2.45 Film:** Cats & Dogs (2001) **4.30** The X Factor **5.45** The Xtra Factor **6.45 Film:** Twister (1996) **9.00** The Xtra Factor **10.00** Bad Bridesmaid **11.00** The X Factor **12.00** The Xtra Factor **1.05** Fake Reaction **1.40** Conor Maynard: The Hot Desk **1.50** The Big Reunion 2014 **2.45** Teleshopping **5.45** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3

12.15 Inspector Morse **2.20 Film:** Columbo: Fade in to Murder (1976) **3.55 Film:** Carry On Loving (1970) **5.45** Wycliffe **6.55** Lewis **9.00** The Best of the Royal Variety **10.00 Film:** Dial M for Murder (1954) **12.15** William and Mary **2.05** Judge Judy **2.45** World Kitchen **3.10** ITV3 Nightscreen **3.40** Emmerdale

ITV4

11.50 The Motorbike Show **12.55** Cycling: Vuelta a Espana **1.55** Cycling: Tour of Britain **3.00** Cycling: Tour of Britain Live. Coverage of the second part of the eighth stage of the race. **5.55** Police, Camera, Action! **7.00** River Monsters **8.00** Premiership Rugby Union **9.00** Cycling: Tour of Britain **10.00** Cycling: Vuelta a Espana **11.00 Film:** Shootout (1971) **1.00** Hell on Wheels **1.55** Cycling: Vuelta a Espana **2.45** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping **3.30** The Store **4.30** Teleshopping

E4

12.30 Made in Chelsea NYC **1.30** How I Met Your Mother **2.30** Suburgatory **3.00** The Mindy Project **3.30** New Girl **3.55** The Big Bang Theory **4.55** The 100 **5.55** Rude(ish) Tube **6.50 Film:** Imagine That (2009) **9.00** Made in Chelsea NYC **10.00** Almost Royal **10.35** The Big Bang Theory **11.35** Virtually Famous **12.20** Rude Tube **1.25** Rules of Engagement **2.20** The Ricky Gervais Show **2.50** The Cleveland Show **3.10** Hollyoaks

Film4

11.00 Yellow Sky (1948) **1.00** Ladyhawke (1985) **3.20** Taxi (2004) **5.10** Five Children and It (2004) **6.55** Big Miracle (2012) **9.00** The Guard (2011) **10.50** Source Code (2011) **12.35** Rust and Bone (2012) **3.05** Close

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	Studio 2	**9.30-10.15 Low Aerobics**	18.00-19.00 Burlesque Fitness	**19.00-19.45 SFS Dance (age 5-12)**	**20.00-20.45 Street Dance (age 10+)**
	Studio 3		18.00-19.00 Pole Fitness	19.00-20.00 Pole Fitness	
Tuesday	Studio 1			**18.00-18.45 Body Toning**	**19.00-19.45 Spin & Tone**
	Studio 2	**10.00-10.45 Aerobics & Body Toning**	17.00-18.00 L'Academie Private Lessons	18.00-19.00 L'Academie Slow Dance	19.00-20.00 L'Academie Private Lessons
	Studio 3				
Wednesday	Studio 1	9.15-10.15 Yoga	18.00-20.00 Youth Dance Company Contemporary Style Dance (Requires Auditions)		20.00-21.00 Yoga
	Studio 2	16.30-17.30 L'Academie Private Lessons	17.30-18.30 L'Academie U12's Stretching Class	18.30-19.30 L'Academie Stamina	19.30-20.30 L'Academie 12+ Stretch Class
	Studio 3				Heels Dance Class
Thursday	Studio 1		**18.15-19.00 Body Toning**	**19.00-19.45 Spin & Abs**	20.00-20.45 Cambridge Class
	Studio 2		**18.15-19.00 SFS Dance (Age 5-12)**	**19.00-19.45 Show Dance**	**19.45-20.30 SFS Dance (Age 12+)**
	Studio 3				
Friday	Studio 1	9.15-10.15 Yoga			
	Studio 2		16.30-18.30 L'Academie Private Lessons	18.30-20.00 L'Academie Freestyle	20.00-21.00 L'Academie Private Lessons
	Studio 3				
Saturday	Studio 1	**9.15-10.00 Body Blast**	**10.00-10.45 SFS Dance (Age 8-14)**	**11.00-11.45 Commercial Dance (Age 14+)**	
	Studio 2	**9.15-10.00 Rainbow Dance (Age 4-8)**	10.00-11.00 L'Academie Adult Dance Class	13.00-14.00 L'Academie Musical Theatre	14.00-17.00 L'Academie Competitors
	Studio 3				
Sunday	Studio 1				
	Studio 2	**10.00-10.45 Aerobics**			
	Studio 3				

*SFS = Street, Freestyle & Slow Dance *This timetable commences 8th September 2014 and is subject to change at the owners discretion.

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FILM CHOICES

MONDAY
The River Wild, Channel 5, 11pm
A headstrong white-water rafting expert embarks on a holiday with her family, but their fun comes to an abrupt end when two killers show up. The fugitives' only escape route from the law is down a raging river, so they take the woman and her son hostage to act as guides. Meanwhile, her husband desperately tries to keep track from the riverbank, waiting for his opportunity to launch a rescue attempt. Action thriller, with Meryl Streep, Kevin Bacon, David Strathairn and Joseph Mazzello. (1994)

TUESDAY
Mystery Woman: In the Shadows, Channel 5, 3.15pm
Bookshop-owning sleuth Samantha Kinsey attends a writers' convention, where she befriends a former KGB agent who has launched a new career as a mystery author. When her new Russian friend is suddenly murdered, Samantha resolves to track down the killer. Whodunit, starring Kellie Martin, Malachi Throne and Nina Siemaszko. (2007)

Hot Fuzz, Friday, ITV, 10.40pm

WEDNESDAY
Win a Date with Tad Hamilton!, BBC1, 11.50pm
A screen idol's reputation is damaging his career, so his manager comes up with a plan to rehabilitate the actor's public image by giving ordinary women across America the chance to win a date with him. The prize eventually goes to a supermarket checkout girl – much to the annoyance of her best friend, who has secretly carried a torch for her for years. Romantic comedy, with Kate Bosworth, Topher Grace and Josh Duhamel. (2004)

THURSDAY
Goodnight for Justice, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A boy witnesses his parents being murdered by bandits, and grows up to be a judge with the intention of seeing the killers pay for their crimes. When he finally tracks down the men responsible, his desire for revenge drives him toward breaking his oath to uphold the law. Western, with Luke Perry and Lara Gilchrist. (2011)

FRIDAY
Hot Fuzz, ITV, 10.40pm
An overly zealous, by-the-book London policeman is reassigned to a sleepy country village where the crime rate is virtually zero. But just as the officer's new environment begins to chafe, a grisly series of so-called accidents gives him reason to suspect a conspiracy is afoot. Action comedy, with Simon Pegg. (2007)

PICK OF THE WEEK

Cilla spots her chance to live the dream

After winning a Bafta for her performances as the wife of a Great Train Robber in Mrs Biggs, you might think that starring in TV biopics held no fear for Sheridan Smith.

But then, not many people were familiar with the real Charmian Biggs, whereas Smith's latest role sees her playing one of the most famous women on British telly – Cilla Black.

So, it's not surprising the actress admits to being apprehensive about taking it on. She says: "The drama is slightly more daunting because Cilla is so well known. And it's daunting thinking what Cilla will make of your performance."

Even though she knows viewers will be comparing her to the genuine article, it seems Sheridan has resisted the temptation to slip in a lorra, lorra catchphrases.

"The director Paul Whittington and I talked for a long time. We didn't want it to be a mimic of Cilla. I'm not an impersonator and that would be doing her a disservice. It's done with much more respect than that."

Of course, it also helps that when the three-part drama opens in the early 1960s, the artist formerly known as Priscilla White is still a secretary with a sideline in performing on Liverpool's club scene alongside such local sensations as the Big Three, Kingsize Taylor and a certain bunch of hopefuls called the Beatles.

Sheridan says: "One of the great things about telling this story is that some of the younger generation have no idea about Cilla's singing career. They know Blind Date and Surprise Surprise onwards. This is the time of Merseybeat – what an exciting era."

Writer Jeff Pope also explores the singer's relationships with two of the most important men in her life – her future husband Bobby, and her manager, Brian Epstein.

Sheridan says: "Cilla wrote something in her autobiography which I thought was such a lovely thing… Bobby said 'Every successful woman needs a good man behind her.' When Cilla said she thought it was the other way around, Bobby replied, 'So? Why shouldn't we break the mould?'"

However, it seems she didn't get off to the most promising start with the man who would go on to be the love of her life. When the would-be pop star first meets Bobby (Aneurin Barnard), he tells her he's in the music business, so she's put out to later discover he's lied about his job, and that even his flash car is hired.

Fortunately, he gets a second chance to prove his worth, but will Cilla get off to a better start with impresario Epstein (Ed Stoppard) when she lands an audition?

It seems there's just one person's approval that Sheridan is hoping for – Cilla's.

"We went to dinner and I was so nervous. When you've grown up watching someone on telly you just hope they're going to be as nice as they come across. And she was. She gave me her blessing and I just hope she likes it."

Sheridan Smith stars in Cilla, Monday, ITV, 9pm

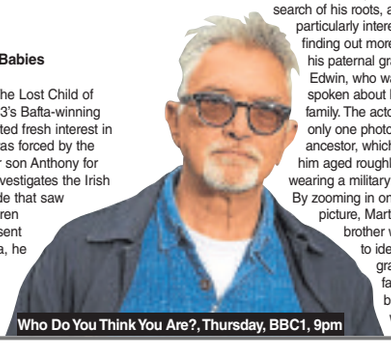
BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY
Jon Richardson Grows Up
Channel 4, 10pm
New series. The 8 Out of 10 Cats team captain gets to grips with adult issues, from mortgages and marriage to parenthood. In the first of three editions, he embarks on a road trip with fellow comedian Matt Forde to uncover different attitudes to relationships. They start off by meeting a couple who have been married for 54 years to see if they can provide answers. The boys then encounter people who contest the norm when it comes to co-habiting and marriage, such as swingers, and receive an invitation to the wedding of a couple who have six marriages between them. Jon also arranges for Matt to visit one of the UK's leading matchmakers, which leads to two dates in one night.

TUESDAY
Live UEFA Champions League
ITV, 7.30pm
Liverpool get their first Champions League campaign since the 2009/10 season under way when they entertain Ludogorets Razgrad in this Group B encounter at Anfield. While the Reds' second-place finish in the Premier League last term ensured they did not have to participate in the play-offs, the visitors qualified in dramatic style. With their tie against Steaua Bucharest heading to a penalty shoot-out, the Bulgarian champions looked destined for an early exit from the competition as their goalkeeper had been sent off after all the substitutes had been used. However, right-back Cosmin Moti proved to be an unlikely hero, saving two spot-kicks and converting one himself to help his team progress. Despite their opponents' heroics in that contest, the Reds will see anything less than a win tonight as a major setback, with tough fixtures to follow against holders Real Madrid and Swiss champions FC Basel.

WEDNESDAY
This World: Ireland's Lost Babies
BBC2, 9pm
When Martin Sixsmith wrote The Lost Child of Philomena Lee, it inspired 2013's Bafta-winning movie Philomena, and generated fresh interest in the story of the woman who was forced by the Catholic Church to give up her son Anthony for adoption. In this film, Martin investigates the Irish Catholic Church's role in a trade that saw thousands of 'illegitimate' children taken from their mothers and sent abroad. In Ireland and America, he hears the touching stories of lives that were changed for ever. He also discovers some of the tragic consequences which occurred when prospective parents were not properly vetted, and witnesses the struggle of a mother and child separated by continents who hope to find each other before time runs out.

THURSDAY
Who Do You Think You Are?
BBC1, 9pm
Inspector George Gently and The Professionals star Martin Shaw is the latest celebrity to go in search of his roots, and he's particularly interested in finding out more about his paternal grandfather Edwin, who was rarely spoken about by his family. The actor has only one photo of his ancestor, which shows him aged roughly 17 and wearing a military uniform. By zooming in on the picture, Martin's brother was able to identify their grand-father's badge, which suggests he was in the Royal Marines. Now, by meeting with a military historian, Martin tries to fill in the rest of the story, and in the process learns more about Edwin's role in defending Birmingham against German air assaults during the Second World War.


Who Do You Think You Are?, Thursday, BBC1, 9pm

Scotland Decides
BBC1, 10.35pm
Huw Edwards presents live coverage from Glasgow as the votes are counted in the Scottish independence referendum, with BBC political editor Nick Robinson and Scotland 2014's Sarah Smith on hand to provide expert commentary and Jeremy Vine analysing how the vote is building up throughout the night with the help of his virtual-reality graphics. Political correspondents will be live at every count, Andrew Neil will have the reaction from Westminster and teams in Wales and Northern Ireland will discuss the impact of the decision.

Friday
Storage: Flog the Lot!
Channel 5, 8pm
Professional dealers meet for a secret auction at an empty warehouse to bid against each other for a series of mystery items in four storage lots, before attempting to turn a profit with their winnings. Will anyone be caught out by a red herring and risk losing up to £25,000 of their own money?

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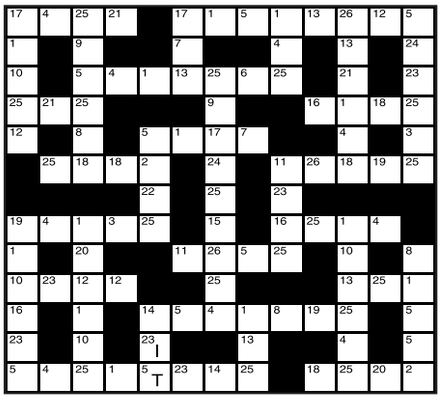
BRAIN GYM No.290

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



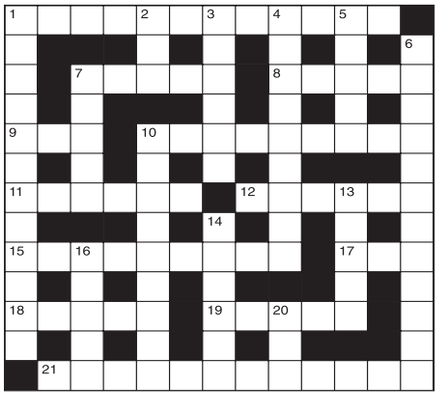
1	14
2	15
3	16
4	17
5 T	18
6	19
7	20
8	21
9	22
10	23 I
11	24
12	25
13	26

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
W	Y	R	U	I	C	O	T	X	G	A	P	F
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
N	M	V	K	S	J	Z	L	Q	D	H	E	B

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.



Cryptic Clues:

Across

1. Reserve for assignment to a particular team? (3,2,3,4)
7. Such spirits help us to see better (5)
8. Hide the hundred left (5)
9. Tune keeping the lungs working? (3)
10. Grows when folded (9)
11. Occurrences that provide openings out East (6)
12. Conclude it could be somewhat delicate (6)
15. Realise it could be a Hebrew (9)
17. They are relatively close (3)
18. From which she'll engage a girl (5)
19. Made an attempt at courting? (5)
21. Indicate attention to exhibition dividend? (4,8)

Down

1. Ordinary soldier is alive to off-duty goings-on (7,5)
2. Why the stallion was hen-pecked? (3)
3. It's nice to observe (6)
4. Cite verse about not divulging (9)
5. The rich man goes under (5)
6. Urge worker on strike to give statement, for papers (5,7)
7. Regal effort makes a big difference? (5)
10. Having information about content of letter at present? (2,3,4)
13. Given a coat by the printer (5)
14. Pay attention: 50 = 10! (6)
16. He is in general pharmacy (5)
20. What 3 isn't (3)

Quick Clues:

Across

1. Laudable (12)
7. Schedule (5)
8. Criminal (5)
9. Vase (3)
10. Profanation (9)
11. Force (6)
12. Inequitable (6)
15. Indecency (9)
17. Sack (3)
18. Steam-bath (5)
19. Power (5)
21. Detective (12)

Down

1. Cinema (7-5)
2. Cry (3)
3. Sprain (6)
4. Villainous (9)
5. Bisect (5)
6. Questioner (12)
7. Taut (5)
10. Set apart (9)
13. Precincts (5)
14. Fate (6)
16. Show contempt for (5)
20. Joke (3)

Sudoku

4		3		8		2		
	6			2			7	
			6		4		3	
		9	7		1	3		
3	4							1
		7	4		2	6	9	
			5		3			
	2	6	1	4			8	
		4		7		9		

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

5	1	4	8	6	7	2	9	3
7	2	9	3	4	5	6	1	8
3	6	8	2	9	1	5	4	7
1	7	2	6	5	8	4	3	9
8	3	5	4	2	9	1	7	6
9	4	6	1	7	3	8	2	5
6	5	1	7	3	4	9	8	2
4	9	3	5	8	2	7	6	1
2	8	7	9	1	6	3	5	4

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 4 Advance; 8 Reeled; 9 Install; 10 Greedy; 11 Income; 12 Dividers; 18 East wind; 20 Quorum; 21 Onager; 22 Ripping; 23 Severs; 24 Redress. Down: 1 Tragedy; 2 Reserve; 3 Tended; 5 Dentists; 6 Antics; 7 Column; 13 Elements; 14 Singlet; 15 Address; 16 Pumice; 17 Proper; 19 Tender. QUICK - Across: 4 Achieve; 8 Flashy; 9 Despise; 10 Extent; 11 Nation; 12 Cerberus; 18 Dissuade; 20 Forego; 21 Divine; 22 Partner; 23 Street; 24 Memento. Down: 1 Offence; 2 Factory; 3 Chance; 5 Cleanses; 6 Impute; 7 Vision; 13 Redolent; 14 Mariner; 15 Reverts; 16 Donate; 17 Gentle; 19 Shifty.

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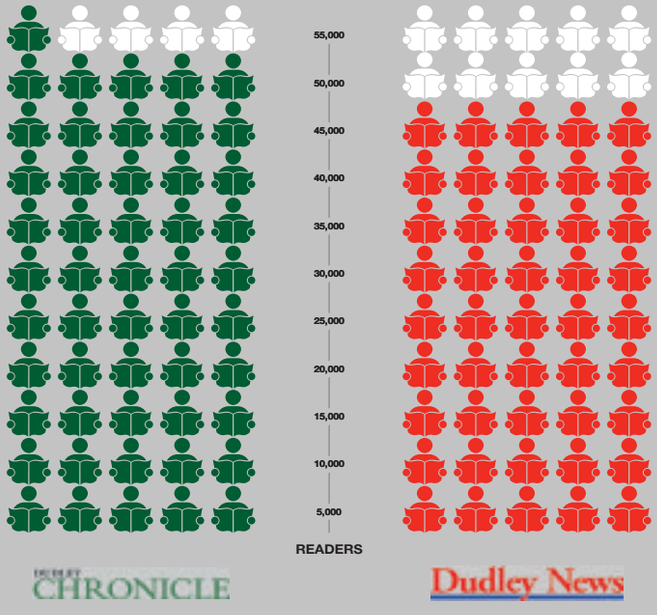
DUDLEY CHRONICLE



IN DUDLEY, THE CHRONICLE HAS 6,419 MORE READERS AND DISTRIBUTES 3,975 MORE COPIES THAN THE DUDLEY NEWS

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MNA Media

Superb detached home in a sought-after area

IN a prominent position in a sought-after area, 2 Yew Tree Lane, Tettenhall, Wolverhampton is a superb detached home with picturesque gardens.

Re-styled to include a ground floor bedroom with an en suite shower/cloakroom ideal for elderly relatives, it is for sale through Thomas Harvey at £450,000.

It has a porch, hall, living room with a York stone fireplace and doors out to the rear garden.

There is a dining room with marble-style fireplace, cloakroom/shower room, bedroom four/sitting room, breakfast kitchen, rear lobby/utility, three first floor double bedrooms, luxury bathroom, tandem timber garage with stores, gas central heating and new oak-effect double glazing.

Call Thomas Harvey on 01902 758111 or visit the website online at www.thomasharvey.co.uk

Detached home has that spacious feel

A four-bedroomed detached home in Copper Beech Drive, Wombourne, is well-presented with generous accommodation.

It is for sale through DB Roberts & Partners at £369,995.

The majority of accommodation is on the first floor with bedroom four on the ground floor. Accommodation comprises porch, hallway, ground floor bedroom four, ground floor WC and garage.

On the first floor is an L-shaped lounge/diner, fitted breakfast/kitchen, conservatory, extended master bedroom with en suite shower room, two further bedrooms and a bathroom.

Call DB Roberts & Partners on 01902 427257 or visit www.dbroberts.co.uk

O-E-A Ombudsman www.oea.co.uk

SWINSCOES

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WOLVERHAMPTON

Camberley Crescent
* Attractively presented traditional semi
* Lounge with open plan dining area
* Modern kitchen
* An extra reception room
* Three bedrooms & family bathroom
* Garage & driveway parking
* fabulous rear gardens
* An ideal family home
* EPC Rating - F

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £172,500

KINGSWINFORD

Barnett Lane
* A Modern semi-detached BUNGALOW
* Positioned on a corner plot
* GARAGE AND DRIVEWAY
* Fully refurbished to a HIGH STANDARD
* Luxury 'Crown' Kitchen
* Brand new central heating system
* Well maintained rear garden
* NO UPWARD CHAIN
* EPC Rating - D

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £169,950

LOWER GORNAL

Longfellow Road
* An excellent size semi-detached
* Ideal location for Gornal Village
* In close proximity to popular local school
* Lounge & separate dining room
* THREE bedrooms and family bathroom
* Private rear gardens & off road parking
* Garage
* NO UPWARD CHAIN
* EPC Rating - C

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £169,000

SEDGLEY

Turl Street
* A good sized DETACHED family home
* In walking distance to Sedgley
* Open plan style lounge
* Large conservatory
* Kitchen & guest WC
* Garage and drive
* THREE bedrooms
* NO UPWARD CHAIN
* EPC rating - D

ASKING PRICE £150,000

ETTINGSHALL PARK

Lapper Avenue
* A well presented bay fronted semi
* On the popular Ettingshall Park Estate
* Close by to shops and good schools
* Open plan lounge & dining
* Kitchen & utility room
* THREE bedrooms
* Private a& well maintained garden
* Garage and drive
* EPC Rating - TBC

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £137,500

UPPER GORNAL

Eve Lane
* A traditional THREE bed semi
* Having been fully renovated
* Open plan EXTENDED kitchen
* Brand new kitchen and bathroom
* Upvc double glazed throughout
* Gas centrally heated
* NO UPWARD CHAIN
* EPC Rating - D

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £134,950

COSELEY

Beechfield Grove
* A traditional semi-detached property
* Situated close by to local amenities
* Lounge and Dining Room
* Extended Kitchen to the rear
* THREE bedrooms
* Garage and drive
* Fully UPVC double glazed
* NO UPWARD CHAIN
* EPC Rating - E

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £129,950

LOWER GORNAL

Windmill Street
* A MODERN style end of Terrace
* Pleasant cul-de-sac location
* Open plan breakfast kitchen
* Small conservatory
* Two bedrooms (originally THREE)
* Well maintained rear gardens
* Parking for three vehicles
* An ideal first time buy
* EPC Rating - D

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £127,950

COSELEY

Church Road
* A Traditional terrace property
* Deceptively spacious
* An open plan modern dining kitchen
* Lounge & Sitting Room
* Two good size bedrooms
* Loft Room (being used as a bedroom)
* Good size rear garden
* Driveway with parking for 2 cars
* EPC Rating - E

PRICE £119,950

COSELEY

Cedar Avenue
* A semi-detached family home
* Situated on the popular Bramford Estate
* Lounge and Dining Room
* Extended Kitchen to the rear
* THREE bedrooms
* Beautiful private rear garden
* Upvc double glazed & centrally heated
* NO UPWARD CHAIN
* EPC Rating - D

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £115,000

LOWER GORNAL, DUDLEY

Wealdstone Drive
* A beautifully presented mid terrace
* Lounge & dining kitchen
* Two double bedrooms
* Modern bathroom
* Off road parking for two vehicles
* Private rear garden
* An ideal first time buy
* EPC Rating - C

OFFERS OVER £110,000

SEDGLEY

Rowan Road
A traditional style semi-detached property
Popular 'Sedgley' address
Close by to local amenities and schools
Lounge & Open plan dining kitchen
Side lobby with storage rooms and WC
TWO good size bedrooms
Beautiful rear gardens
NO UPWARD CHAIN
EPC Rating - D

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £107,500

www.swinscoes.co.uk www.rightmove.co.uk www.zoopla.co.uk

Corner location for a traditional family house

ON a corner plot, this three-bedroomed traditional detached house in Royal Oak Road, Halesowen, is in a very desirable area.

It is for sale through Dixons at £360,000. It has an entrance hall with wooden flooring, cloaks cupboard and stairs off, a lounge with French doors to the rear garden and a dining room with wooden flooring.

The kitchen/breakfast room has cream units with contrasting wood-effect working surfaces and splash-back tiling.

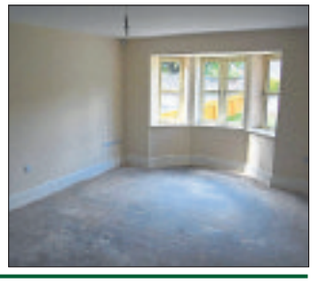
A sitting room has two sky lights, fitted storage furniture, a utility, WC, a master bedroom with wardrobes, a dressing table and overhead storage, two further bedrooms and a bathroom, a separate WC, garage and gardens.

For further information contact Dixons Estate Agents on 0121 6290828 or visit the website at www.dixonsestateagents.co.uk

New detached home is in a premier area

A FOUR-BEDROOMED house in Catholic Lane, Sedgley, Dudley is for sale through Wakeman Estate Agents at £360,000. With double glazing and gas central heating, it has an entrance hall with under stairs store, WC, living room with bay window, dining room with French doors to the rear garden, a breakfast kitchen with range style double oven and five-ring gas hob, stainless steel extractor fan and ceiling spotlights, a utility room.

Upstairs is a landing with built-in cupboard, bedroom with en suite shower, bedroom two with bay window, two further bedrooms, bathroom, lawned front and rear gardens, drive and garage. Contact (01384) 459999 or www.wakeman-online.com



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WOODSETTON

33 HILARY CRESCENT

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EPC Rating - D

Tue 16 September 1.00 pm Tue 23 September 1.00 pm
Tue 30 September 1.00 pm Tue 7 October 1.00 pm
Mon 13 October 1.00 pm

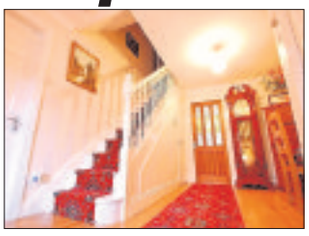
*Guide Price £80,000 - £90,000

*Guides are provided as an indication of each seller's minimum expectation. They are not necessarily figures which a property will sell for and may change at any time prior to the auction. Each property will be offered subject to a Reserve (a figure below which the Auctioneer cannot sell the property during the auction) which we expect will be set within the Guide Range or no more than 10% above a single figure Guide.

Breakfast kitchen at this four-bed family home

A DETACHED four-bedroomed property with an extended breakfast kitchen in Bridle Grove, West Bromwich, is for sale through Worton Kelly at £310,000.

The property has an entrance hall, a WC, lounge with bay window and patio doors. There is a dining room, a kitchen with Belfast sink, plate racks, sky lights and flagstones and a utility room. Bedroom one has fitted wardrobes and en suite shower room with slate flooring. Bedroom two has wardrobes and there are two further bedrooms and bathroom. Contact 0121 5885666 or www.wortonkelly.com



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FOR SALE / TO LET

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M5 (J3) approx 5.5 miles
Ground and first floor offices
Merry Hill within 2 miles
4.8m min eaves

0121 544 2121

TO LET

bulleys.co.uk/beldray

3,733 - 6,203 sq ft

UNITS 7 & 10
BELDRAY INDUSTRIAL PARK
BILSTON, WV14 7NH

Minimum eaves height 4.93m
Concrete surfaced yard area
Car parking

01902 713333

TO LET

bulleys.co.uk/howardstreet

34,091 - 68,151 sq ft

UNITS 4,5,6 & 7
HOWARD STREET INDUSTRIAL ESATE
WEST BROMWICH, B70 0ST

6 & 7—Refurbished unit including new roof lights and lighting
Night Security & CCTV
Situated approximately ½ mile from the A41 Black Country New Road

0121 544 2121

TO LET

bulleys.co.uk/siddons

1,925 - 3,982 sq ft

SIDDONS FACTORY ESTATE
HOWARD STREET
WEST BROMWICH, B70 0SU

Approx 1/2 mile off the A41 Black Country new road
dual carriageway
Office Accommodation
Roller Shutter or sliding door access
24 Hour CCTV & night security

0121 544 2121

TO LET

bulleys.co.uk/lyebc

954 - 986 sq ft

LYE BUSINESS CENTRE
LYE,
DY9 8QH

Lye centre within 1 mile
Imediate occupation
M5 & M6 within 7 miles
Two remaining units

0121 544 2121

TO LET

bulleys.co.uk/hale

1133 - 2,493 sq ft

HALE TRADING ESTATE
LOWER CHURCH LANE
TIPTON, DY4 7PQ

Last 2 remaining units
Junction 2 of M5 approximately 4 miles
Black Country New Road approximately 1 mile

0121 544 2121

TO LET

bulleys.co.uk/bloomfield

2,233 - 4,521 sq ft

BLOOMFIELD PARK,
BLOOMFIELD ROAD,
TIPTON, DY4 9AH

Units available separately or combined
M5 (J2) Approximately 3.5 Miles
24 hour estate CCTV
Estate palisade fencing

0121 544 2121

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TO LET

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K.Stuart Swash

PROPERTY AUCTION - 30th September 2014

15 BECKMINSTER ROAD, PENN FIELDS.

Well presented Semi in popular residential area. Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, smart Kitchen, Utility.
Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas CH, Double Glazing . Off-road parking to front, Charming Rear Garden EPC: D56

Guide: £89,000 / 94,000

VIEWING:
FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 12th & 13th SEPTEMBER @ 10.00 a.m.

2 HATTON ROAD (off PAGET ROAD) WOLVERHAMPTON

An uniquely located large Edwardian Semi with many period features spacious Hall, Three Reception Rooms, Kitchen, Utility area . Four First Floor Rooms, Bathroom, W.C. Spacious Attic
Garden Room, Garage, attractive Garden
EPC: G.18

Guide: £94,000 / £99,000

VIEWING:
FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 12th & 13th SEPTEMBER @ 10.45 a.m.

46 RICHES STREET, WOLVERHAMPTON

An impressive and spacious Late Victorian House in convenient location Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Breakfast Room, Kitchen, large Ground Floor Bathroom. Galleried Landing, Three Double Bedrooms, Shower Room
Enclosed Rear Garden EPC: F.29

Guide: £120,000 / £130,000

VIEWING:
FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 12th & 13th SEPTEMBER @ 11.30 a.m.

15 CARTER ROAD, WOLVERHAMPTON

Investment Property

Two Bedroomed Mid Terraced
Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Ground Floor Bathroom. Enclosed Rear Garden. Currently producing £4,500 pax EPC: D59

Guide: £45,000 / £50,000

VIEWING:
THURSDAY 11TH AND TUESDAY 16TH SEPTEMBER @ 12.15 p.m.

2 HILL CLOSE, SEDGLEY

Ripe for modernisation – Hall, Through Lounge, Kitchen, Lobby, WC, Store.
Three Bedrooms, large Bathroom
Front and Rear Gardens, off road Parking EPC: F.26

Guide: £68,000 / £73,000

VIEWING:
FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 12th & 13th SEPTEMBER @ 9.45 a.m.

11 CHURCHFIELD AVENUE, TIPTON

Extremely well presented and spacious Top Floor Flat
Hall, Kitchen, large Lounge with fine balcony off, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, WC., Parking.
EPC: D62

Guide: £30,000 - £35,000

VIEWING:
FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 12th & 13th SEPTEMBER @ 10.30 a.m.

221 MOSELEY ROAD, BILSTON

In an elevated position – a Semi-Detached Bungalow with large rear garden and open aspect beyond.
Porch, Hall, large Lounge, Sun Lounge, Kitchen. Two Double Bedrooms, Bathroom, Double Glazing EPC: D.62

Guide: £49,000 / £54,000

VIEWING:
FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 12th & 13th SEPTEMBER @ 11.30 a.m.

'HIGHBURY'
11 ELM AVENUE, BILSTON

Substantial and impressive Late Victorian House. Enclosed Porch, front Entrance Hall, Cellar, fitted Cloakroom, Three Reception Rooms, Kitchen, Four Bedrooms, Bathroom, W.C
Outside: Stores, W.C., Garage, charming Garden EPC: F32

Guide: £150,000 /£160,000

VIEWING:
FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 12th & 13th SEPTEMBER @ 12.15 p.m.

38 CHURCH STREET, BILSTON

Investment

Town Centre location with generous footfall – Shop Unit with display window (currently Ladies' Hairdressing Salon), Lobby, Two Rear Rooms, W.C., Cellar
and **Nos. 38A, B, C & D Church Street**
Four One Bedroomed Flats
Total Annual Income – Est. £22,500 pax. EPC's: TBA

Guide: £220,000 / £230,000

VIEWING:
BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

FOR SALE BY PUBLIC AUCTION

(subject to conditions and prior sale)

On TUESDAY 30th SEPTEMBER 2014 @ 6.30 p.m.

At the Ramada Park Hall Hotel

Park Drive, Goldthorn Park, Wolverhampton, WV4 5AJ

Further entries Invited

Please Register for Catalogue

VIEWING OF ALL LOTS AT OWN RISK

PLEASE NOTE: Viewings are at times specified so, should you arrive late, you may find your viewing time is limited or that we have moved on in order to maintain the time schedule Please Register for Catalogue

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KINGSWINFORD	818 High Street	01384 401777
BRIERLEY HILL	84-86 High Street	01384 265265
STOURBRIDGE	85 High Street	01384 395555

6 LOCAL OFFICES WORKING HARDER FOR BUYERS & SELLERS

Upper Gornal

NEW

Vale Street

A remarkable certainly unique gas centrally hearted and uPVC double glazed detached architect designed to take full advantage of site and VIEWS and 'transformed/ enlarged' by present vendors in recent years to an exemplary specification. Accommodation entrance vestibule, fitted cloakroom (with lengthy utility room beyond) inner reception hall, 16'2" lounge, enlarged dining room (with skylight and double French doors), refitted kitchen. To the first floor are three generous bedrooms (all with fitted/built in wardrobes) and a reappointed bathroom to the second floor a spacious principle bedroom with panoramic distant views and stylish shower room en-suite. Carport, secluded gardens EPC Rating T.B.C. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the Region of £247,500

Sedgley, Northway

NEW

Sunningdale Road

MAGNIFICENT LOCATION on corner plot with PANARAMIC DISTANT VIEWS! - A fastidiously maintained significantly enhanced and improved gas centrally heated and primarily uPVC double glazed semi detached compromising entrance porch, reception hall, 24'8" through living/ dining room (with bay window to front and patio doors to rear) enlarged/refitted kitchen with an extensive range of units Three generous bedrooms (third bedroom enlarged into eaves) bathroom with white suite, garage presently utilised as additional utility room delightful expertly tendered gardens to side and rear. EPC Rating T.B.C. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the Region of £182,950

Wordsley

NEW

Oakleighs

A STUNNING, EXTENDED & EXPENSIVELY IMPROVED, MODERN SEMI-DETACHED FAMILY HOME within this very popular address upon highly sought after 'Forest Lawns / Ashwood Park', offering SPACIOUS and IMMACULATELY PRESENTED / APPOINTED accommodation which is 'READY TO MOVE INTO' and comprising: Reception Hall, spacious Lounge with Dining Area off, extended & attractively refitted Dining Kitchen with built-in appliances, Study, THREE BEDROOMS, luxury re-appointed Shower Room; GAS CENTRAL HEATING and UPVC DOUBLE GLAZING. With an attractive fore garden, DRIVEWAY, GARAGE and BEAUTIFULLY LANDSCAPED SOUTHERLY FACING REAR GARDEN. EPC Rating: D. KINGSWINFORD OFFICE 01384 401777

£169,950

NETHERTON

NEW

Weavers Rise

Enjoying an elevated position within this lovely address, this WELL ARRANGED AND MOST APPEALING, TWO BEDROOM, LINK-DETACHED BUNGALOW is strongly recommended for viewing, affording an excellent layout with particular attention being brought to the LARGE SITTING ROOM and PLEASANT REAR GARDEN. Offered 'for sale' with NO UPWARD CHAIN and in more detail to briefly comprise: Reception hall, large sitting room, kitchen, two generous bedrooms and bathroom. Substantial driveway providing ample vehicular parking, garage and pleasant rear garden. EPC Rating 'D.' BRIERLEY HILL OFFICE 01384 265265.

£169,950

Woodsetton

NEW

Claycroft Terrace

An attractive ENLARGED and conscientiously maintained freehold gas centrally heated and uPVC double glazed semi detached in popular/ convenient district requiring some sympathetic updating. Accommodation includes porch, reception hall, lounge with bay, pantry, sitting room and 'conservatory' beyond. Three bedrooms, bathroom, outer lobby with two stores and a separate toilet, garage, garden. EPC Rating T.B.C. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the Region of £144,950

Wolverhampton, Ettingshall Park

NEW

Dovedale Road

TREMENDOUS POTENTIAL! Requiring near comprehensive renovation a particularly spacious THREE DOUBLE BEDROOMS semi detached in favoured district. Part uPVC double glazed accommodation includes entrance porch, reception hall, lounge with bay, pantry, extended 18ft living room, kitchen, rear lobby, three double bedrooms, bathroom, separate toilet, garage, secluded rear garden. EPC Rating T.B.C. Offers based on £139,950 to be received for the executors consideration by close of business Friday 12th September 2014

Offers based on £139,950

SEDGLEY

NEW

Cross Lane

An attractive, significantly modernised, gas centrally heated & mostly uPVC double glazed semi detached occupying an impressive corner plot in popular neighbourhood within reasonable walking distance of Sedgley's Bull Ring & all associated amenities. Well proportioned accommodation includes superb reception hall (lofty ceiling height), through living room (formerly separate lounge & dining room), upgraded kitchen, three bedrooms, recently reappointed/part tiled bathroom with stylish white contemporary suite & a shower, potential parking. EPC Rating: D. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £109,950

Brierley Hill

NEW

The Promenade

Favouring an elevated position within this established address and in close proximity to local shops and amenities, this VERY WELL PRESENTED AND TASTEFULLY DECORATED, TWO BEDROOM, END TERRACE HOME should appeal to first time buyers and includes a layout including GAS CENTRAL HEATING AND UPVC DOUBLE GLAZING. The property is seen to briefly comprise: Pleasant Sitting Room, Separate Dining Room, Modern Well Fitted Kitchen, Two Good First Floor Bedrooms, Delightful Bathroom and Rear Garden. EPC Rating 'E. Brierley Hill Office 01384 265265.

£79,950

SEDGLEY / Sandyfields Road

An imposing, fastidiously maintained, and tremendously enhanced, Freehold, gas centrally heated & uPVC double glazed detached family residence enviably situated in favoured district with PANORAMIC DISTANT VIEWS from the rear, and within walking distance of so many amenities, schools, and country park. The ENLARGED accommodation provides; imposing reception hall, fitted cloakroom, through lounge, separate dining room, recently refitted 20 ft breakfast kitchen with an extensive range of units/integrated appliances (and double French doors out to the garden); Garage is currently utilised as a store/utility room. FOUR GENEROUS BEDROOMS (three with fitted units/wardrobes), reappointed tiled bathroom with a white traditional style suite. Magnificent lengthy landscaped rear garden with patio, and external lighting. EPC Rating E. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £349,950

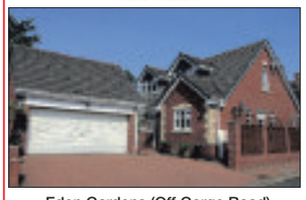
MUSHROOM GREEN

Quarry Road

A successful conversion with many appealing features, this VERY WELL PRESENTED, RATHER CHARMING, THREE BEDROOM DETACHED COTTAGE is full of character and is purported in part to date back approximately 250 years. The most surprising accommodation has both gas central heating and double glazing (vast majority of units) to comprise : IMPRESSIVE LARGE BREAKFAST KITCHEN with a fine range of units, Sitting Room, Spacious Living Room with formal dining area, Three Good Bedrooms and Attractive Large Bathroom. The property occupies a broad frontage with Well Tended Gardens. Driveway providing ample off street parking and DOUBLE GARAGE. EPC Rating D. BRIERLEY HILL OFFICE 01384 265265

£249,950

SEDGLEY

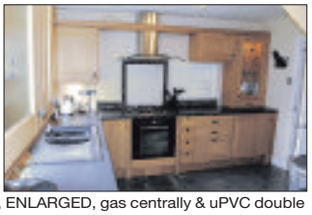


Eden Gardens (Off Gorge Road)

A distinctive, highly individual & particularly spacious, freehold, gas centrally heated & uPVC double glazed detached dormer bungalow with private drive in small gated secure development constructed circa 2003. The quite exceptional accommodation includes reception hall, cloaks cupboards, lounge with bay (& double french doors to garden), separate dining room, kitchen with a fine range of integrated units & laundry section, bathroom & fourth bedroom (alternative study). To the first floor are three bedrooms (two with wardrobes & principal bedroom with shower room en suite), substantial double garage with automated door, extensive block paved parking. Private driveway. EPC Rating: C. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region £225,000

SEDGLEY / Caswell Road



A quite exceptional, absolutely outstanding, ENLARGED, gas centrally & uPVC double glazed detached that has been transformed by present vendor to an exemplary specification in recent years. First quality accommodation includes imposing reception hall, fitted cloakroom, magnificent 23'4" through living/dining room, extended refitted kitchen with a fine range of units & many integrated appliances, separate utility room, three generous bedrooms, reappointed bathroom with contemporary style white suite/ shower, large garage, block paved drive/parking area, expertly tended garden. EPC Rating D. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £225,000

QUARRY BANK

Dunns Bank

Enjoying a FANTASTIC CORNER POSITION within this admired address, this STUNNING, THREE BEDROOM, DETACHED FAMILY HOME is recommended for viewing, affording an excellent layout with UPVC DOUBLE GLAZING, yet with particular attention being brought to the LARGE DOUBLE GARAGE and WELL FITTED CONTEMPORARY BREAKFAST KITCHEN. Available for sale with NO UWPARD CHAIN and briefly comprising: Three lovely reception rooms, well fitted contemporary breakfast kitchen, landing, three first floor bedrooms and modern white bathroom. Substantial grounds consisting of a double garage, driveway and garden. EPC Rating G. BRIERLEY HILL OFFICE 01384 265265

£205,000

DUDLEY / Himley Avenue

NEW PRICE

MAGNIFICENT LARGE GARDEN (with associated distant views). A spacious, EXTENDED, Freehold, gas centrally heated & uPVC double glazed detached with further potential in quiet cul-de-sac. Accommodation provides; entrance vestibule, central reception hall, store, transverse 20'2" lounge, extended 21' dining room, extended 21' breakfast kitchen. Four generous bedrooms, enlarged bathroom. Car port, garage. Exceptionally lengthy garden with workshop, sheds, and a garden room, and a wide range of established shrubs & plants - PERSONAL INSPECTION VITAL FOR TOTAL APPRECIATION. EPC Rating: D. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

WAS £209,500 NOW £199,950

Dudley

NO UPWARD CHAIN

Abbotsford Drive

Superbly located, this SUBSTANTIAL and DECEPTIVE DETACHED 'DORMER' FAMILY HOME enjoys a desirable location and an EXCEPTIONALLY WELL PROPORTIONED layout of FLEXIBLE & QUALITY accommodation, comprising: Large central Reception Hall with 'light oak' staircase, generous 22' - full depth Lounge with Dining Area, CONSERVATORY/GARDEN ROOM, spacious Breakfast Kitchen with built-in appliances, ground floor WC, ground floor BEDROOM 3/Office, TWO LARGE DOUBLE FITTED FIRST FLOOR BEDROOMS and spacious 'Heritage' Bathroom with separate shower. GAS CENTRAL HEATING, DOUBLE GLAZING. Front garden, BROAD DRIVEWAY, LARGE GARAGE and a LARGE LEVEL REAR GARDEN with decking and lawns. EPC Rating: E KINGSWINFORD OFFICE 01384 401777

£199,950

SEDGLEY

Ladies Walk

NO UPWARD CHAIN. An EXTENDED, exceptionally spacious, gas radiator centrally heated & uPVC double glazed family home enviably situated in "backwater" within level distance of Bull Ring and all associated amenities. Flexible accommodation comprises; entrance vestibule, reception hall, fitted cloakroom, sitting room, transverse recently refitted breakfast kitchen with a fine range of units & various integrated appliances, garden/playroom. To the first floor; landing, 'L' shape living/dining room, third bedroom. To the second floor; two further bedrooms, separate study, and a reappointed/re-tiled bathroom with a white contemporary style suite. Garage. EXTENSIVE PARKING, sheltered rear garden, and further side garden. EPC Rating: C. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £185,000

SEDGLEY

Claremont Road

Enviably situated in "tree lined" road within walking distance of the Bull Ring, an ENLARGED, gas centrally heated & uPVC double glazed semi detached of character (with period features remaining) that has been conscientiously maintained over the years but offers further potential. Accommodation briefly comprises; reception hall, dining room with bay, pantry, sitting room with bay, utility room, and kitchen. Three bedrooms (two with bay windows), tiled bathroom. Large garage (16'4" x 9'4"). Lengthy secluded rear garden. EPC Rating: D. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £159,950

BEARWOOD 129 Poplar Road 0121 434 4345
HALESOWEN 21 Hagley Road 0121 550 3978
SEDGLEY 2A Dudley Street 01902 880888

Taylors
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6 LOCAL OFFICES WORKING HARDER FOR BUYERS & SELLERS

PENSNETT

NEW PRICE

Corbyns Close

Representing a rare opportunity to acquire a property in a quiet Cul-de-Sac, this Double Glazed (vast majority of units), Gas Centrally Heated, THREE BEDROOM DETACHED family home is available with NO UPWARD CHAIN, and is well worthy of internal inspection. The property briefly comprises: Entrance Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, THREE BEDROOMS, Re-Fitted Bathroom with white suite. Garage, Driveway providing ample off street parking, and a lengthy Rear Garden. EPC Rating D. BRIERLEY HILL OFFICE 01384 265265.

£159,950

WOODSETTON

Parkes Lane

An EXTENDED, gas centrally heated & uPVC double glazed semi detached set in quiet "backwater" being close to so many amenities. Conscientiously maintained accommodation includes; entrance hallway, lounge, extended dining room, extended 'L' shape breakfast kitchen. Three bedrooms, upgraded bathroom. Garage (presently sub-divided to form a store, and a further utility room with toilet off). Low maintenance gardens, and tremendous DISTANT VIEWS from the rear. EPC Rating: D. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £149,950

Kingswinford

OPEN VIEW Sat 13th Sept 11-1pm

Bromley Lane

●● NO UPWARD CHAIN ●● Forming part of this established address, conveniently located for local shops / schooling, this MODERN SEMI-DETACHED FAMILY HOME is enhanced by a CONSERVATORY EXTENSION plus a DOUBLE GARAGE to the rear and offers SPACIOUS accommodation which REQUIRES UPDATING, yet provides EXCELLENT POTENTIAL and comprising: Entrance Hall, spacious Lounge-with-Dining Area, CONSERVATORY EXTENSION, Kitchen, THREE BEDROOMS, Bathroom; GAS CENTRAL HEATING and UPVC DOUBLE GLAZING. Set back beyond the lawned fore garden and enjoying an ATTRACTIVELY LAID OUT REAR GARDEN with rear access to the DOUBLE GARAGE. EPC Rating: D. KINGSWINFORD OFFICE 01384 401777

£134,950

SEDGLEY

Bilston Street

DOUBLE GARAGE AT REAR! A deceptively spacious freehold, gas centrally heated and uPVC double glazed semi detached excellently positioned within walking distance of Sedgleys bullring and all associated amenities. A number of period features have been retained/enhanced. Accommodation comprises traditional reception hall, store, dining room with open fireplace, transverse lounge with open fireplace, inner vestibule and superb 17'1" breakfast kitchen with a fine range of units. Two (potentially three) bedrooms, bathroom, secluded/sheltered rear garden and substantial concrete panel 20ft x 17ft contractors garage. EPC Rating: E. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £132,750

DUDLEY

NEW PRICE

Beaumaris Close

An exceptionally stylish, tremendously upgraded, gas centrally heated (recent combi boiler) and uPVC double glazed semi detached that has been "transformed" by present vendors in recent years enviably situated at head of short cul-de-sac with PANORAMIC DISTANT VIEWS from the rear. Accommodation includes; lounge, store, refitted dining kitchen with a fine range of Ikea 'abstract black' finish units & various integrated appliances. Two double bedrooms, upgraded bathroom with a white suite/chrome detailing. Off road parking to front, sheltered rear garden. INTERNAL INSPECTION VITAL FOR TOTAL APPRECIATION. Fixed Price £129,950 swift completion available if required. EPC Rating C. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

WAS £131,500 NOW £129,950

NETHERTON

Hill Street

A Pleasantly positioned three bedroom family home having three generously sized bedrooms and gas central heating and double glazing to the majority comprising of a Porch, Hall, Downstairs toilet, Living diner, Verandah, Kitchen, Useful covered side access, First floor landing, Three bedrooms, Bathroom, Garage, Rear garden and Block paved drive. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC Rating E. BRIERLEY HILL OFFICE 01384 265265

£129,950

UPPER GORNAL — Goodrich Mews

NEW PRICE

NO UPWARD CHAIN. Constructed by Taylor Wimpey circa 2009 and covered by remainder of NHBC guarantee an exceptionally stylish already significantly enhanced gas centrally heated and uPVC double glazed intermediate home upon a well established highly regarded development. Delightful accommodation includes reception hall, fitted cloakroom, breakfast kitchen with a fine range of upgraded units with various integrated appliances living/dining room THREE BEDROOMS (principle bedroom with en suite) bathroom parking for two vehicles to front and sheltered/ secluded level rear garden. EPC Rating C. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

WAS £128,750, NOW FIXED PRICE AT £124,999

LOWER GORNAL

Ellowes Road

Conscientiously maintained, comparatively spacious, Freehold, gas centrally heated & uPVC double glazed semi detached former police house in established district. Accommodation includes; reception hall, dining room, lounge, upgraded kitchen with a range of 'oak' effect units, lobby, store, separate w.c. Three generous bedrooms, bathroom. Gated driveway to a large garden, TREMENDOUS POTENTIAL. EPC Rating: D. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £124,950

TIPTON

Oxford Way

An OUTSTANDING and exceptionally stylish uPVC double glazed and gas centrally heated semi detached with GARAGE (in adjacent court) excellently situated in favoured cul de sac. Superb accommodation includes lounge, inner hallway, cloaks/store, fitted cloakroom, breakfast kitchen with a range of 'white beech effect units' TWO DOUBLE BEDROOMS, bathroom with white suite, professionally landscaped/secluded garden and a brick garage. Internal inspection vital. EPC Rating: C. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £124,950

WOODSETTON

Parkes Hall Road

Significantly modernised, Freehold, gas centrally heated & uPVC double glazed semi detached in particularly convenient district, Accommodation includes; entrance porch, reception hall, store, and the ground floor accommodation has been "opened up" to provide an enlarged 17 ft max lounge (with original open fireplace), and transverse refitted 17'6" breakfast kitchen (with uPVC double glazed double French doors out to garden). Three bedrooms, upgraded bathroom with white suite. Off road parking to front, lengthy secluded rear garden, possible rear vehicular access (subject to licence fee to Council). EPC Rating: D SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £124,950

SEDGLEY

Gospel End Street

A delightful, quaint, and rather quirky, gas centrally heated & double glazed cottage constructed in the late 19th century forming part of Sedgley's conservation area with secluded garden, tremendous distance views, and set in quiet "backwater" being so convenient for Sedgley's Bull Ring. The property has been comprehensively renovated & restored in recent years with many fine period features, and comprises; sitting room (original Inglenook and a woodburner stove), refitted breakfast kitchen (granite work surfaces, deep glazed sink and many units), useful cellar. Principal bedroom (with lofty vaulted ceiling, exposed beams etc)., further bedroom, and a reappointed shower room with first quality white suite. Delightful sheltered gardens to front, and brick store to rear. EPC Rating:D. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £124,950

UPPER GORNAL

Greenhill Road

A spacious, gas centrally heated, uPVC double glazed, semi detached that has been "transformed" by present vendors to a superb specification in recent years. Accommodation includes; reception hall, through 21' living/dining room (with double doors out to garden), refitted breakfast kitchen, rear vestibule, utility room, toilet. Three generous bedrooms, reappointed bathroom with stylish white suite. Potential garage (kerb not dropped) good sized secluded rear garden. EPC Rating:C. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in excess of £123,000

DUDLEY

Garrick Close (Earls Keep)

ENVIABLY SITUATED WITH MAGNIFICENT VIEWS, A uPVC double glazed and GAS CENTRALLY HEATED, Second Floor Apartment (with "entry phone" style access to communal parts), set upon well regarded development within walking distance of so many amenities. Accommodation provides; reception hall, two generous bedrooms (one with wardrobes), bathroom with white suite, 20'10" living/dining room, kitchen with a fine range of units and many integrated appliances. Communal grounds, allocated parking. EPC Rating: C. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the Region of £117,950

SEDGLEY

Turls Street

IDEAL STARTER HOME! A delightful, significantly modernised & improved, gas centrally heated & uPVC double glazed cottage excellently situated within walking distance of so many amenities, and also open fields. Stylish accommodation provides' 20'7" through living/ dining room, transverse kitchen with a fine range of units. Two bedrooms (one with wardrobes), bathroom with white suite. Neat sheltered well tended rear garden with decking. EPC Rating: D. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £114,950

NETHERTON

Purlin Wharf

A superb two bedroomed flat situated on this delightful canal side development, having double glazing and storage heating. Internal accommodation comprises of: Reception hall, spacious lounge, superb kitchen, two bedrooms, master with en suite shower room, attractive house bathroom, allocated parking and delightful communal grounds. EPC rating C. BRIERLEY HILL OFFICE 01384 265265.

£112,950

SEDGLEY

PUBLIC NOTICE

Linfield Gardens, Northway

NOTICE OF OFFER

Property Address: 28 Linfield Gardens, Dudley, West Midlands, DY3 3RB

We would advise that an offer has been made for the above property in the sum of £112,500. Any person wishing to increase on this offer should notify the agents of their best offer prior to exchange of contracts. Taylors Estate Agents, 2a Dudley Street, Sedgley, Dudley, West Midlands, DY3 1SB Tel: 01902 880888 Email: sedgley@taylors-estateagents.co.uk.

PENSNETT

NEW PRICE

Church Street

Enjoying a position within this renowned address, this BEAUTIFULLY PRESENTED, TWO BEDROOM SEMI DETACHED HOME is recommended for viewing, affording an excellent layout with GAS CENTRAL HEATING AND UPVC DOUBLE GLAZING. Undoubtedly a home to suit FIRST TIME BUYERS and in more detail the accommodation briefly comprises: Hall, attractive sitting room, pleasant dining room, well fitted modern kitchen, landing, two first floor bedrooms, family bathroom and enclosed rear garden. EPC Rating E. BRIERLEY HILL OFFICE 01384 265265.

£94,950

UPPER GORNAL

Priors Mill

This traditional style, uPVC double glazed (vast majority of units), gas centrally heated, two bedroomed mid townhouse is available with no upward chain, and may be of particular interest to first time buyers. Accommodation briefly comprises: Entrance Hall, Lounge, Dining room, Kitchen, Two Double Bedrooms, Bathroom, lawned Gardens and secure parking to rear. EPC Rating C. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the Region of £92,500

COSELEY

Caddick Street

NO UPWARD CHAIN. This well presented, gas centrally heated, three bedroom THIRD FLOOR FLAT that may particularly appeal to first time buyers, and is well worthy of an internal inspection. The conscientiously maintained property stands in communal grrounds and briefly comprises; secure entrance, welcoming hall, stylish lounge, kitchen, three good bedrooms, and bathroom with a white suite. EPC Rating D. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the Region of £75,950

Focus on comfort with two lounges and conservatory

A MODERN and well-designed four-bedroomed detached family home in Great Meadow, Tipton, comes with two lounges and a spacious conservatory at the rear. It is for sale through Skitts Estate Agents at £259,950.

Decorated throughout it has a front facing lounge with modern feature fireplace, a dining room a set of French doors , a second lounge with French doors , a kitchen with a units and under stairs storage, conservatory, downstairs WC, four good sized bedrooms, en suite to master, bathroom, mainly lawned gardens, a garage and off road parking via a double width front driveway adjoining the front lawn.

For more information contact Skitts on 0121 5202255 www.skitts.net

Wakeman

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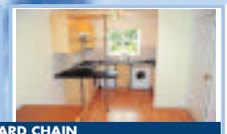
teamprop.co.uk

22 CEDARWOOD ROAD, LOWER GORNAL £285,000
- Attractive split level residence in a pleasant cul de sac location
- Deceptive flexible accommodation with three/four bedrooms
- Breakfast kitchen, lounge & dining area, conservatory
- Good sized corner plot gardens with additional parking, double garage
- SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING D

4 ELMWOOD RISE £249,950
SEDGLEY
- Detached house with four bedrooms
- En suite shower room off bedroom one
- Extended breakfast kitchen, utility room
- Private rear garden, excellent views to the rear
- SEDGLEY OFFICE - EPC RATING C

50 CLAREMONT ROAD Offers Around £199,950
SEDGLEY
- Traditional style detached house
- Three bedrooms & recently re-fitted bathroom
- Extended kitchen & downstairs shower room,
- Attractively landscaped westerley facing rear garden
- SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING E



8 FIELDSTONE VIEW, LOWER GORNAL £199,500
- Attractive modern three bedroom detached house
- Set well back from the road behind a good sized front garden
- Through lounge, dining kitchen, conservatory, ensuite shower room
- Gas central heating, upvc double glazing, detached garage
- SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING TBC

4 OAKLEIGH DRIVE £154,995
SEDGLEY
- Extended town house
- Three bedrooms
- Well maintained accommodation
- Good sized rear garden
- SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING D

55A SPRING ROAD, LANESFIELD £139,950
- Modern detached house occupying a pleasant cul-de-sac location
- Extended, well maintained & attractively presented accommodation
- Three bedrooms, extended kitchen and rear conservatory
- Attached garage & easily maintained private rear garden
- SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING D

3 GEORGE ROAD £129,950
COSELEY
- Semi detached house
- Three bedrooms
- Gas central heating & double glazing
- 'L' shaped dining kitchen
- SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING D

17 BUTTERWORTH CLOSE £124,950
COSELEY
- Semi detached house
- Three bedrooms
- Well maintained & extended
- Lounge/dining room, utility room & study
- SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING E

5 QUEENS CRESCENT £124,950
COSELEY
- Semi detached house
- Extended accommodation
- Three bedrooms, shower room
- Utility room/study
- SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING TBC

35 PADARN CLOSE £122,000
SEDGLEY
- Modern terraced house
- Three bedrooms
- Ideal first time purchase
- Shower room, car parking space
- SEDGLEY OFFICE- EPC RATING C

47 NORBURY CRESCENT £109,950
LANESFIELD
- Extended semi detached house
- Three bedrooms
- Extended dining room, spacious living room
- Ground floor wet room, first floor bathroom
- SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING C

67 NORBURY CRESCENT £109,950
LANESFIELD
- Semi detached house
- Three bedrooms
- Well presented accommodation
- Through lounge & dining room
- SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING B

64 SPRINGFIELD GROVE £109,950
SEDGLEY
- Semi detached house
- Well proportioned accommodation
- Three bedrooms
- Utility area/wc
- SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING D

1 SOUTH OVAL £104,950
UPPER GORNAL
- End terraced house
- Three bedrooms
- Two reception rooms
- Gas central heating & double glazing
- SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING E

39 BIRMINGHAM NEW ROAD £99,950
TIPTON
- Semi detached house
- Three bedrooms
- Partial gas central heating
- Extended accommodation
- SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING D

14 CROSSLEY STREET £99,950
DUDLEY
- Modern detached bungalow
- Well maintained accommodation
- Gas central heating & double glazing
- Shower room
- SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING C

9 DARBY CLOSE £94,950
WOODCROSS
- End terraced house
- Three bedrooms
- Spacious accommodation
- Occupying a corner position
- SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING D

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PENSNETT

HIGH STREET

FOR SALE £149,995

Detached Property. Comprises of: Entrance Porch, Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, Conservatory, Three Bedrooms,Bathroom with separate Shower Cubicle. Benefits include: Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Rear Garden, Off Road Parking.

TIPTON

NIGHTINGALE DRIVE

FOR SALE £59,995

First Floor purpose built Flat. Accommodation comprises of: Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, One Bedroom, Bathroom. Offered with NO UPWARD CHAIN, benefits include: Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing and Off Road Parking.

BRIERLEY HILL

NORTH STREET

FOR SALE £92,500

Well Presented, Modern Ground Floor Apartment. Comprises of: Entrance Hall with Store, Spacious Lounge, Large Kitchen/ Diner, Two Good Size Bedrooms, Bathroom. Benefits Include: Electric Heating , Off Road Parking and Visitor Parking.

KINGSWINFORD

BARNETT CLOSE

FOR SALE £179,995

Semi detached home in quiet cul de sac location. Comprising of: Entrance Porch & Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Refitted Kitchen, Three Bedrooms and a Refitted Bathroom. Benefits include, Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating, GARAGE.

RUSSELLS HALL

CORBYN ROAD

FOR SALE £127,500

Semi Detached Property with NO UPWARD CHAIN. Comprises of: Entrance Hall, Lounge/Diner, Kitchen, Two Double Bedrooms and a Bathroom. Benefits include: Gas Central Heating, Off Road Parking, Rear Gardens and Partial Double Glazing.

KINGSWINFORD

RANGEWAYS ROAD

FOR SALE £87,500

Purpose built two bedroom ground floor flat offered with NO UPWARD CHAIN has accommodation to comprise of: Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms and a Bathroom with the added benefits of Double Glazing, Off Road Parking, and GARAGE.

WILLENHALL

MILL LANE

£510 pcm*

End Terrace Property, Lounge, Large Kitchen/Diner, Two Double Bedroom, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Unfurnished, Rear Garden, Parking

GORNAL

OX STREET

£625 pcm*

Semi Detached House, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom with shower, Off Road Parking, Gardens to Front & Rear, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing

DUDLEY

DONNINGTON COURT

£470 pcm*

Second floor flat, Lounge, Kitchen, One Bedroom, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished, Allocated Parking

KINGSWINFORD

DUBARRY AVENUE

£725 pcm*

Semi Detached Property, Prime Location, Lounge, Kitchen, Dining Room, TV Room, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Single Garage, Off Road Parking, Rear Garden, Unfurnished

UPPER GORNAL

VICARAGE ROAD

£550 pcm*

Semi Detached Property, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished, Front & Rear Gardens

KINGSWINFORD

LABURNUM ROAD

£435 pcm*

Ground Floor Flat, Lounge, Kitchen, One Bedroom, Bathroom, Off Road Parking, Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating

STOURBRIDGE

BOROUGH CRESCENT

£650 pcm*

Semi-Detached House, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Conservatory, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom with shower, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Front & Rear Garden, Parking for 2 cars

STOURBRIDGE

HOLLYBUSH LANE

£550 pcm*

First Floor Flat, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Rear Garden, Unfurnished

PENSNETT

MULLETT STREET

£525 pcm*

Semi Detached Property, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Two Bedrooms, Gas Central Heating, Bathroom with Shower, Off Road Parking, Front & Rear Gardens, Unfurnished

KINGSWINFORD

LARCH ROAD

£395 pcm*

First Floor Flat, Lounge/Diner, Kitchen, One Double Bedroom, Bathroom, Electric Heating, Unfurnished

STOURBRIDGE

BAGLEYS ROAD

£395 pcm*

Ground Floor Flat, Lounge, Kitchen, One Double Bedroom, Electric Heating, Double Glazing

NETHERTON

NORWICH ROAD

£535 pcm*

Terrace Property, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Bathroom, Three Bedrooms, Gas Central Heating, Unfurnished, Front & Rear Gardens, Off Road Parking

BRIERLEY HILL

CHURCH STREET

£375 pcm*

First Floor Flat, Lounge, Kitchen, One Bedroom, Bathroom with Shower, Double Glazing, Unfurnished, Off Road Parking

BRIERLEY HILL

HULLAND PLACE

£560 pcm*

Semi Detached House, Lounge, Kitchen, Downstairs WC, Two Double Bedrooms, Bathroom with shower, Parking for 2-3 Cars, Front & Rear Gardens, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazed Sealed Units

KINGSWINFORD

SYCAMORE ROAD

£575 pcm*

Semi Detached Property, Lounge/ Diner, Kitchen, Two Double Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Front & Rear Gardens, Off Road Parking

BROCKMOOR

STATION ROAD

£495 pcm*

Terrace Property, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Rear Garden, Off Road Parking, Gas Central Heating, Unfurnished

KINGSWINFORD

HIGH STREET

£320 pcm*

First Floor Flat, Entrance, Lounge, Kitchen, Bedroom, Bathroom with Shower, Electric Heating

WORDSLEY

BELLS LANE

£570 pcm*

Semi Detached Property, Lounge, Kitchen, Shower Room, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Front & Rear Gardens, Gas Central Heating, Partial Double Glazing, Unfurnished

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QUARRY BANK CALEWOOD ROAD

An attractively presented, stylishly improved and beautifully maintained Modern 3 Bed Semi providing refreshingly spacious GAS CENTRALLY HEATED and Upvc DOUBLE GLAZED accom ideal for the discerning young family and is pleasantly situated just into this popular and convenient address. Briefly comprises:- Hall, Spacious Lounge, SUPERB REFITTED 'L' SHAPED KITCHEN WITH DINING AREA, 3 EXCELLENT BEDROOMS, Attractively Fitted Bathroom with Shower, Pleasant Lawned Rear Garden and Driveway for 2 cars. EPC=E

Offers around £147,950

PENSNETT QUEEN STREET

A superbly presented, beautifully maintained 3 Bed Semi pleasantly situated in this popular and convenient address and providing well planned GAS CENTRALLY HEATED and UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED accom ideal for the discerning First Time Buyer or young family. Briefly comprises :- Hall, spacious Lounge with Dining Area, attractively fitted Kitchen with built in oven and hob, 3 well proportioned Bedrooms, superb reappointed Bathroom, pleasant lawned rear Gardens and Driveway for 2 cars to the front. EPC=C

Offers around £134,950

PENSNETT TILED HOUSE LANE

Most pleasantly situated towards the head of a small cul-de-sac leading from this well known address this spacious 3 Bed Semi provides GAS CENTRALLY HEATED and mostly UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED accom ideal for the young family or First Time Buyer and briefly comprises:- Hall, Lounge, large fitted Kitchen with built in oven and hob, Downstairs W.C., 3 well proportioned Bedrooms, refitted Shower Room, Side Garage, pleasant lawned good sized rear Gardens with sunny aspect and range of large Useful Stores and driveway for 2/3 cars. EPC=TBC

Offers around £109,950

BRIERLEY HILL LIMES AVENUE

This attractively presented, neatly improved 2 Bed Semi provides deceptively spacious GAS CENTRALLY HEATED and Upvc DOUBLE GLAZED accom ideal for the discerning first time buyer or young family and is pleasantly situated in this popular and convenient address. Briefly comprises:- Hall, Spacious Lounge, Refitted Dining Kitchen, 2 Good Sized Bedrooms, Refitted Bathroom with Shower, Pleasant Good Sized Rear Gardens with pleasant outlook and Driveway for 2 Cars. EPC=D

Offers around £99,950

BRIERLEY HILL BELL STREET

A relatively 'unique' 3 Bed First Floor Flat pleasantly situated in this very convenient address close to the Town Centre, providing unbelievably spacious GAS CENTRALLY HEATED and UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED accom ideal for the young family,First Time buyer or Investor. Briefly comprises:- Hall, Spacious Lounge, SPACIOUS FITTED KITCHEN WITH BUILT IN OVEN AND HOB, 3 BEDROOMS, Bathroom with shower, pleasant shared rear garden and allocated car parking space.EPC=TBC

Offers around £89,950

BROCKMOOR HULLAND PLACE

An attractively presented 2 Bed End Townhouse providing well planned GAS CENTRALLY HEATED and DOUBLE GLAZED accom ideal for the First Time Buyer or young family and is pleasantly situated in this ever popular Cul-de-sac backing on to the grounds of Brockmoor First School, Attractive Lounge, RESTYLED DINING KITCHEN WITH BUILT IN OVEN AND HOB, 2 well proportioned Bedrooms, fitted Bathroom with shower, side Garage, Driveway and pleasant lawned Rear Gardens with Southerly facing aspect. EPC=D

Offers around £117,950

PENSNETT CORBYNS HALL ROAD

Pleasantly situated in this ever popular address, this attractively presented Traditional 3 Bed Semi-Detached provides well planned double glazed accom which although requires cosmetic upgrading and improvement provides TREMENDOUS FURTHER POTENTIAL For the young family. Available with NO UPWARD CHAIN the accommodation includes:- Hall, Spacious Lounge, Separate Dining Room, Extended Kitchen, 3 Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Pleasant Lawned Rear Gardens and Lawned Front Garden.EPC=F

Offers around £112,950

BRIERLEY HILL MOOR STREET

Pleasantly situated with MUCH LARGER THAN AVERAGE GARDENS at the front of this ever popular address, this attractively presented Modern 2 Bedroomed End Townhouse provides well planned deceptively spacious UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED accom ideal for the First Time Buyer, young family or INVESTOR. Briefly comprises :- Hall, Lounge, Dining Kitchen, 2 good sized Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, pleasant lawned gardens to rear and side and car parking space immediately to rear. EPC=E

Offers around £92,500

BROCKMOOR CAMPBELL STREET

Pleasantly situated in this popular and convenient "backwater", this 2 Bed End Terrace provides deceptively spacious GAS CENTRALLY HEATED and UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED accom ideal for the First Time Buyer or young family and is available with NO UPWARD CHAIN. Briefly comprises: Attractive Lounge, separate Dining Room, stylish fitted "L" shaped Kitchen, 2 excellent sized Bedrooms, fitted Bathroom with shower and pleasant mature long lawned rear Garden with Useful Store. EPC=E

Offers around £89,950

BRIERLEY HILL THE BREEZE

Superb Modern 2 Bed Second Floor Apartment providing well planned accom with UPVC Double Glazing and night storage heating, very conveniently positioned for Town Centre represents an excellent opportunity for the First Time Buyer, professional couple or the INVESTOR. Briefly comprises: Secure Entrance, Hall, Spacious Lounge, Superb Kitchen with built in Oven and Hob, 2 Good Bedrooms, Stylish Bathroom, Allocated Car Park Space and Maintained Grounds.EPC=B

Offers around £84,950

PENSNETT COMMONSIDE

Very conveniently positioned for local amenities, this 2 Bed End Terrace provides deceptively spacious gas centrally heated and mostly Upvc double glazed accom which although requires CERTAIN UPGRADING and improvement provides tremendous FURTHER POTENTIAL.. Briefly comprises :- spacious Lounge, sep Dining Room, Useful Cellar, Kitchen, 2 good sized Bedrooms, large Bathroom with separate shower cubicle and good sized rear Gardens with private outlook.EPC=D

Offers around £84,950

CRADLEY HEATH HINGLEY COURT

Superbly presented 2 Bed GROUND FLOOR Apartment provides stylish UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED accom and is available in conjunction with the SHARED OWNERSHIP INITIATIVE (50% SHARE). Extremely convenient for the amenities of Old Hill and Cradley Heath. Security Controlled Entrance, Hall, attractive Lounge opening to SUPERBLY FITTED KITCHEN with built in oven and hob and washing machine, 2 Excellent Bedrooms, sumptuous Bathroom with shower, Allocated Car Parking Space with secure gates and Communal Gardens.EPC=C

£46,950 for 50% Share

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EARLS KEEP, DUDLEY

BREAMORE CRESCENT

A MODERN WELL PRESENTED FOUR BEDROOM DETACHED HAVING EXCELLANT CONSERVATORY. We are delighted to offer this beautifully presented detached family home comprising of lounge, dining room, kitchen, utility room, spacious conservatory, groundfloor wc, four bedrooms of which the master has en-suite shower room, family bathroom, garage, driveway and rear garden. Viewing is essential. EPC Rating Is Grade D

£239,950 DUDLEY ✆ 01384 455000

RUSSELLS HALL ESTATE

NEW

QUENTIN DRIVE

Most pleasantly situated in this popular cul-de-sac, this three bedroom detached property provides spacious living accommodation with gas central heating and double glazing this property would appeal to a variety of purchasers. The gardens to the rear of the property are beautifully kept. To the front there is a driveway providing off road parking for a number of vehicles and a good sized garage. EPC Awaited

£190,000 DUDLEY ✆ 01384 455000

TIVIDALE

NEW

TAYLOR WAY

NO UPWARD CHAIN IS OFFERED on this well presented modern three bedroom detached property situated in this sought after development. The property comprises to the groundfloor of entrance hall, lounge, kitchen/dining room, utility room and cloakroom/wc whilst to the first floor there are three good sized bedrooms with en-suite facility to the master bedroom and a modern family bathroom. Externally to the front there is a garden and driveway leading to the integral garage whilst to the rear there is an attractive garden area. Viewing is essential to appreciate the standard of accommodation on offer. EPC Rating Grade D.

£190,000 DUDLEY ✆ 01384 455000

OAKHAM

DINGLE CLOSE

We are pleased to market this double glazed and gas central heated bay fronted three bedroom semi detached property comprising to the groundfloor of an entrance porch, entrance hallway, two reception rooms, kitchen, utility room and garage. To the first floor there are three bedrooms and bathroom. Externally there is driveway parking and enclosed rear garden. EPC Ratings D

£154,950 DUDLEY ✆ 01384 455000

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DUDLEY

NEW

WRENS NEST ROAD

IMMACULATELY PRESENTED THREE BEDROOM TOWNHOUSE!!!!!!! A gas centrally heated & double glazed where stated mid townhouse comprising to ground floor entrance hallway, kitchen/diner, lounge & cloakroom, landing, three bedrooms & bathroom. Externally having low maintenance rear garden & allocated parking. EPC Rating Awaited

£120,000 DUDLEY ✆ 01384 455000

LOWER GORNAL

NEW

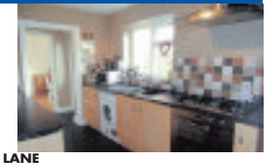
GROSVENOR ROAD

An immaculately presented one bedroom flat situated in a popular area of Dudley with access to a range of amenities and benefitting from entrance porch, lounge, kitchen, bathroom, double bedroom. The property is presented to a high standard. Externally having communal gardens & garage en bloc. EPC Rating Awaited

£76,000 DUDLEY ✆ 01384 455000

UPPER GORNAL

NEW



EVE LANE

A beautifully presented end of terrace property having NO CHAIN. Retaining character features, it is decorated to a high standard and a viewing is recommended. The property comprises lounge, dining room, kitchen & cloakroom / WC to ground floor whilst to the first floor there are two bedrooms and a bathroom. Externally having garden area to the front with lawned garden at the rear. The EPC Rating E.

£122,950 DUDLEY ✆ 01384 455000

UPPER GORNAL

NAYLORS GROVE

●EPC Rating C●Ground Floor Maisonette●Two Bedrooms●Fitted Kitchen●Lounge●Bathroom●Double Glazing●Central Heating●Rear Garden

£450 PM DUDLEY ✆ 01384 455000

TIVIDALE

TO LET

PEEL WAY

●Two Bedroom Maisonette●Lounge●Kitchen●Bathroom●Now Available●EPC - C

£450 P/M DUDLEY ✆ 01384 455000

TIPTON

TO LET

BERNARD ROAD

●Large Semi Detached ●Three Bedrooms ●Lounge ●Kitchen ●Bathroom

£545 P/M DUDLEY ✆ 01384 455000

DUDLEY

TO LET

BIRMINGHAM RD

●Modern Semi Detached●Two Bedrooms●Lounge●Conservatory●Double Glazing●Driveway●Available Now●EPC - C

£550 P/M DUDLEY ✆ 01384 455000

DUDLEY

TO LET

SHREWSBURY PLACE

● Three bedroom property●Lounge●Kitchen/diner●Downstairs Cloakroom●Parking To The Rear●Rear Garden

£650 P/M DUDLEY ✆ 01384 455000

DUDLEY

TO LET

NEWLAND GROVE

●Three Bedrooms●Lounge●Fitted Kitchen●Bathroom●Driveway●Available Now●EPC Awaited

£595 P/M DUDLEY ✆ 01384 455000

TIVIDALE

TO LET

OAKTHORPE GARDENS

Two Bedroom apartment
●Lounge
●Kitchen
●New Bathroom
●EPC Rating E

£425 P/M DUDLEY ✆ 01384 455000

DUDLEY

TO LET

GREEN PARK ROAD

●EPC Rating E●Semi Detached ●Two Double Bedrooms ●Lounge● Fitted Kitchen●Double Glazing ●Drive●Beautifully Presented ●EPC - E

£475 PM DUDLEY ✆ 01384 455000

TIPTON

TO LET

FERGUSON DRIVE

●Well Presented Two Bedroom● Benefits From Electric Heating & Double Glazing●Lounge & Open Plan Dining Kitchen● Two Double Bedrooms●Two Allocated Parking Spaces●Communal Gardens●EPC - Awaited

£445 P/M DUDLEY ✆ 01384 455000

TIPTON

THUNDERBOLT WAY

●●MODERN APARTMENT●● This compact one bedroom apartment is ready to move in to. Consisiting open plan kitchen and living area with new carpets, one double bedroom and bathroom with walk in shower. In fantastic condition throughout.

£395 DUDLEY ✆ 01384 455000

DUDLEY

TO LET

HIGHVIEW STREET

●Semi Detached Property●Three Bedrooms●Large Lounge●Kitchen & Utility●Two Double & One Single Bedroom●Bathroom●Rear Garden●Available Now●DSS Considered●EPC Rating Awaited

£500 P/M DUDLEY ✆ 01384 455000

PENSNETT

BELL STREET

EPC Rating Awaited. Three bedroom semi detached comprising hallway, lounge, kitchen, landing, three double bedrooms and bathroom having shower cubicle and bath. To the outside having rear garden and driveway.

£550 P/M DUDLEY ✆ 01384 455000

sales lettings mortgages

Home is ideal for a first time buyer

IN a cul-de-sac location, this two-bedroomed semi-detached house in Shetland Close, Dunstall Park, Wolverhampton, is an ideal first time buy.

It is for sale through Connells at £129,999 with no chain. It has a porch, entrance hall with stairs off, a lounge with a feature fireplace with a gas fire and under-stairs storage, a kitchen diner with an integrated electric oven and gas hob and French doors, two bedrooms (master en suite), a bathroom and a low maintenance rear garden with a patio area and shed plus a driveway. Contact Connells on 01902 710170 or visit www.connells.co.uk

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- Prominently located fronting Spring Road – excellently located

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TO LET

UNITS 1, 4, 5, 7 & 16 SHOWELL ROAD INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, WOLVERHAMPTON

- 2,906 sq ft (269.97 sq m) – 28,130 sq ft (2,613.41 sq m)
- Units Available Individually – some with Cranage
- Close to A449 Stafford Road
- Established Industrial Estate
- Rent – POA
- EPC – Unit 1 – C57 Units 4, 5, 7 & 16 – E105

TO LET

UNITS 2 & 4, 81 WERGS ROAD, TETTENHALL, WOLVERHAMPTON

- Prominent location fronting main A41
- Suitable for a range of potential retail/office uses (STP)
- Last 2 Units remaining – Lettings completed to Florist and Funeral Directors
- 1,580 sqft (146.8 sqm) & 1,840 sqft (179.9 sqm)
- EPC to be confirmed

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New Sorento breaks cover

By Graham Breeze

The third generation Kia Sorento was unveiled in Korea this week, delivering a premium look to build on the success of the outgoing model.

The new Sorento boasts a smoother, swept-back profile with more space and numerous innovative features.

The styling changes alter the character of the new Sorento, highlighting its sleek profile and giving the new model a bolder on-the-road presence.

There are long, wrap-around headlamps and more prominent fog-lamps, as well as a larger, more upright 'tiger-nose' grille, with a distinctive three-dimensional diamond pattern, first featured on the 2013 Kia Cross GT concept.

In profile, the new model retains the Sorento's hallmark long bonnet and characteristic wide D-pillar, but a lower roofline, higher beltline and swept-back shape give the car a more dramatic, muscular stance.

Inside the all-new Sorento is where some of the most significant improvements are to be found.

The styling of the cabin follows a modern and wide theme with a wraparound dashboard with soft-touch materials and leather creating a modern luxury feel, giving the new Sorento a genuine premium vehicle feel.

Increase

Although the roofline is 15mm lower, repositioned seat cushions ensure increased headroom and legroom for occupants in all three rows. Cargo space also increases.

Available in five- or seven-seat versions, the new Sorento features 40/20/40 second row split folding for improved versatility, with a higher folding centre armrest.

The model debuts a number of new, advanced on-board technologies such as an all around view monitor, with four cameras and a power tailgate which opens the tailgate automatically when the key is 'sensed' in close proximity to the trunk.

Five engines will be available depending on country, offering power outputs ranging from 172 to 270 ps.

These include a 2.4-litre petrol direct injection (GDI) unit, 2.4-litre and 3.3-litre multi-point injection (MPI) engines, and revised 2.0-litre and 2.2-litre 'R' turbo-diesel units.

'Inside the all-new Sorento is where some of the most significant improvements are to be found

Of these, only the 2.2-litre turbo-diesel and 2.4-litre GDI engines will be sold in Europe, with the diesel unit expected to account for the majority of sales. Final decisions on the UK line-up are yet to be made.

Buyers of the new Sorento will be able to choose from a wealth of safety technologies - depending on market.

Available systems will include: ASCC (Adaptive Smart Cruise Control); LDWS (Lane Departure Warning System); FCW (Front Collision Warning); BSD (Blind-Spot Detection); LCA (Lane Change Assist); RCTA (Rear Cross-Traffic Alert) and SLIF (Speed Limit Information Function) based on cameras detecting roadside signs.

Following its unveiling in Korea, the all-new Kia Sorento will make its European premiere on October 2 at the 2014 Paris Motor Show.

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The above fuel consumption figures are based on an EU test for comparative purposes only and may not reflect real driving results. *Model shown: SX4 S-Cross 1.6 SZ5 available at £19,749 on the road. SX4 S-Cross range - SX4 S-Cross 1.6 SZ3 Manual available at £14,999 to SX4 S-Cross 1.6 DDiS SZ5 ALLGRIP Manual available at £23,549. The features referred to in this advertisement and all specifications and equipment may vary depending on engine, transmission and model grade. All prices and specifications correct at time of going to print. On the road price valid from 1st July 2014 to 30th September 2014. Model shown - SX4 S-Cross 1.6 SZ5 Manual (metallic paint available at £430). For full details contact your local participating Suzuki Dealer. Offer subject to availability for vehicles privately registered between 1st July 2014 to 30th September 2014 from participating Authorised Suzuki Dealers only. Offer cannot be used in conjunction with any other offers. All prices and specifications correct at time of going to print. †ALL GRIP 4-wheel Drive option available on 1.6 petrol SZ5 and DDiS SZ-T & SZ5 models. Model shown: SX4 S-Cross 1.6 SZ5 available from £19,749. **Offer applies to private customers and the first registered vehicle only; 3 routine manufacturer services covering 3 years or 37,500 miles (whichever comes sooner) by Suzuki franchised dealers or service partners only. Terms & Conditions apply, see Suzuki.co.uk/cars/freeservicing for details. Offer available on registrations of Suzuki SX4 S-Cross between 1st September 2014 and 30th September 2014, subject to availability, at Suzuki franchised dealers based in the UK, Channel Islands, Shetland and Isle of Man only. The offer cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer unless otherwise stated.

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DRIVETIME

Clear move from diesels

New car buyers are moving back towards petrol engines after years of diesel domination, if Ford's latest sales figures are any guide.

The company has revealed that its multi-award-winning 1.0-litre Ecoboost turbocharged petrol engine now powers one in every five cars sold in Europe, totalling 120,000 vehicles from January to the end of June.

That figure is an increase from 104,000 1.0-litre Ecoboost-powered cars sold in the same period in 2013.

Within the statistics there is a clear move away from diesel in some sectors, with the B-Max showing 47 per cent of sales going to the smallest Ecoboost unit. One third (33 per cent) of Focus buyers also went for the same engine.

"Customers are clearly enjoying the benefits from a small engine that offers great fuel efficiency with no compromise to refinement or performance," said Barb Samardzich, chief operating officer, Ford of Europe.

"The range of models offering the 1.0-litre EcoBoost engine will rise to 11 when the all-new Mondeo is launched in the coming months, and the new 140 PS version in the Fiesta Red Edition and Black Edition shows there is even more potential."

The engine is the first to win the international Engine of the Year accolade three times running, and is available in 99bhp, 123bhp and 138bhp versions according to model choice.

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Finance example: Vauxhall Astra 1.3 CDTi Diesel, Cash Price £4995, Deposit £300, Amount of credit £4695, Fixed interest rate 6.25% Flat rate, 12% APR, 48 Payments of £122.28 (£30.50 per week) Total amount payable £6169.44 (Excludes £150 Document fee and £150 Completion fee, Subject to status)

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You can get a slice of the action with new Leon FR

By John Griffiths

You can't have your cake and eat it, so the old saying goes: but like so many things in the motoring world technology has changed all that.

You can have a car that is both fast and frugal, and one of the best examples currently on the market is SEAT's Leon FR, the diesel-fuelled equivalent of the mighty Cupra.

In three-door coupe body style only, it's sleek, stylish and better equipped than many more expensive 'premium' saloons: it's also capable of tackling the 0 to 62mph in 7.4 seconds and yet it is also capable of averaging more than 62mpg with low CO2 emissions of 119g/km.

That's with the DSG automated transmission: the six-speed manual isn't any quicker but fuel consumption and CO2 emissions are a bit lower still.

But it isn't only quick in the sprint: with 380NM of torque (more than a Porsche Cayman) from as low as 1,750rpm it pulls strongly from the word go, unleashing convincing in-gear acceleration for rapid exits to corners and effective overtaking.

There are rivals – the flagships of the diesel-powered Golf GTis and Audi A3s which are, of course, from the same stable, with the same engine. There's also the BMW 1 Series M Sport, but you'd have to pay between £2,200 and £5,000 more for one of these different badges.

Beauty is in the eye of the beholder but the FR is arguably the real head-turner or the bunch, with its sculptured body work and LED headlights and taillights.

Unlike many hot hatchbacks of the past, the Leon is one of the most complete cars around, and one that will bring a smile to your face and, with room for five in comfort, it's also perfect for transporting the family. Like all new generation Leons, there's more head and legroom and boot space is up by around ten per cent, to 390 litres with five on board.

The FR has sports suspension and the car is lowered by some 15mm, with steering that is light yet positive which makes tackling twisty roads a pleasure.

The top FRs (there's also a 150Ps version) also get a multi-link suspension system, designed to ensure maximum contact between tyre and road. And like all new-generation Leons, it's considerably lighter and has a wider track than its predecessor to improve handling.

Smooth

The sharp handling doesn't come at the expense of a typically harsh sporting car ride: in fact it is notably smooth and quiet. It has a combination of real-world performance, passenger comfort and refinement which would make it a serious competitor in the grand tourer class.

At the car's heart is a two-litre, turbocharged diesel (the same used in the Golf and Audi) with 184ps of power, or 181bhp in old money, which for SEAT is reserved solely for FR models.

The test car was fitted with the group's DSG dual clutch, six-speed transmission which is renowned for its smooth and responsive operation.

Naturally there are paddles behind the steering wheel for rapid manual changes. I find the DSG's electronic controls are intelligent enough for almost any conditions, but the ability to easily down shift for fine control on a steep incline, for example, is sometimes welcome.

Inside, the centre of the dash is dominated by the colour touch screen control for, among other things, the premium sound system and satnav. Most stereo, trip and telephone controls are duplicated on the steering wheel.

The touch screen also controls, simply and intuitively, features such as the comprehensive trip computer and SEAT's driver profile system: two quick dabs of the index finger and you can rapidly set the car up in normal, eco or sport mode, or indeed to your individual preferences.

Usefully, though, you can bimble along in eco mode and do your bit for the environment but, should an overtaking opportunity present itself, a nudge of the gear selector takes you straight into sport mode, dropping a gear or two and unleashing all that power and torque.

Driver profile alters throttle response, steering feel and, in DSG versions, gearbox response, to suit the circumstances: for example in sport mode holding the lower gear to higher rpm.

In 'normal' mode, the throttle is less sharp, the steering feels lighter and the DSG will change gear hold the higher gears for longer, for better economy and smooth progress around town.

Eco mode takes that profile a little further and even alters the climate control and engine stop/start systems to maximise fuel savings.

It's part of a raft of technology fitted to the FR, much of it designed to make the car even safer. Apart from the now usual ABS and stability controls, there is a limited slip differential for improved cornering performance plus hill start assist.

Price: £23,505 (DSG): £22,255 (manual).

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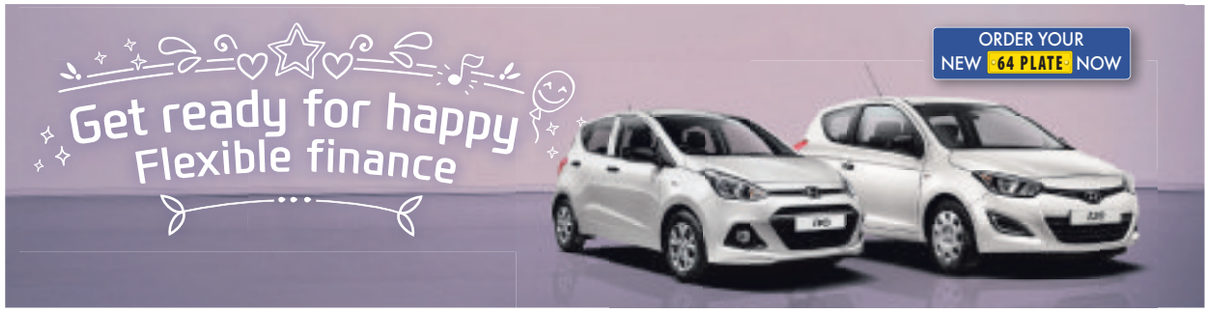

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Cash Price of Vehicle	£10,330.00	Representative APR %	5.9%*
Total Amount of Credit	£7,010.31	Fixed Interest Rate % p.a.	3.04%*
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		Annual Mileage	10,000

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DRIVETIME

A practical choice

By James Parker

Mokka buyers are people likely to be enthusiasts for life rather than for cars. So they may not care that this car isn't quite as sharp and wieldy as a rival Nissan Juke, nor does it have the 'big SUV' polish of a comparable Skoda Yeti. Instead, there's a potentially pleasing compromise between the two.

Under the bonnet, there are three main engine options, the most affordable, as ever, being the least desirable of the trio, the 2WD-only 115PS petrol 1.6-litre variant which, with only 155Nm of torque, needs to be rowed along a little with the gear lever – a stick that only offers you five speeds.

A better bet for petrol people is the Mokka we tried, the 140PS 1.4-litre turbo. Sixty is just 9.4s away enroute to 118mph, so it's usefully more rapid, and there's a healthier 200Nm of torque.

Cheaper

Despite all this and the standard inclusion of 4WD, the provision of a 6-speed gearbox and more modern mechanicals mean that this pokier 1.4 is actually cheaper to run than the feebler 1.6.

The most practical engine choice though is the one most buyers will probably select, the 130PS 1.7-litre CDTi diesel capable of a top speed of around 116mph and rest to sixty in around 10s.

You get all the main mechanical choices with this unit – so you can specify your car with 6-speed manual or automatic transmission and with or without 4WD. Perhaps more importantly, you get a lot more pulling power – 300Nm in all. Every Mokka is theoretically capable of towing a braked trailer of up to 1200kg in weight, but this diesel variant is the only one that'll take such a task in its stride.

Under the skin are the underpinnings of a supermini – more specifically, the Chevrolet Aveo, mechanicals Chevrolet has also used in its Trax small lifestyle Crossover that's one of this Vauxhall's sharpest rivals. In the back, the rear seats benefit from wide opening doors that simplify the fitment of a child seat, though that sharply rising waistline might restrict the view out for smaller occupants.

As for luggage room, well, there's no high boot lip to negotiate and beyond it lies 356-litres of space .

So, this Mokka's a small, trendily-styled five-door little SUV/Crossover isn't it? Well yes. So it'll be priced directly against the other car we tend of think of in this market sector, Nissan's Juke, won't it?

Well, no. Vauxhall points out – correctly – that their car is a significantly larger thing – hence the price span for the range in the £16,000 to £24,000 bracket. To put that into perspective for you, that means you'll be paying a premium of around £2,500 for this Mokka over an equivalent Juke.

Perhaps the most telling comparisons come when you begin to stack this Mokka up against something more conventional.

Why, for example, would you buy a conventional 1.6-litre petrol-powered Vauxhall Astra hatchback when a Mokka with the same engine would save you £1,500 and offer more luggage space?

If, having considered all of this, you decide that it is indeed a Mokka that you actually want, then you'll be pleased to find that whichever of the five-door models you choose – 1.6-litre petrol 2WD, 1.4-litre petrol turbo 4WD or the 1.7-litre 130PS CDTI diesel in either drive configuration – it'll come well equipped.

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5 Business & Farming

business directory

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6 Property

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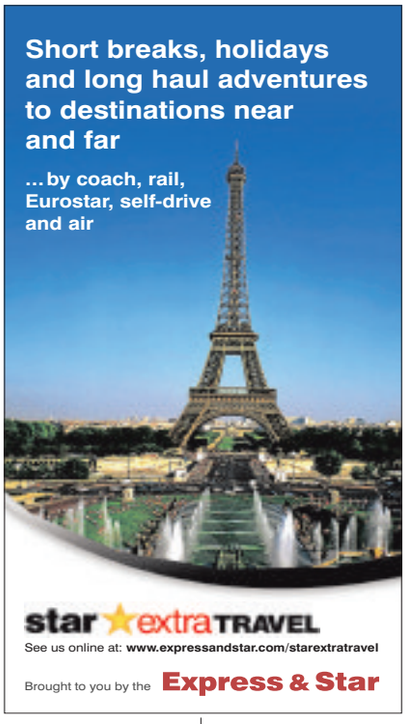

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Dartmouth are new Premier League champs

Cricket

WEST Bromwich Dartmouth are Birmingham Premier League champions for the first time in 21 years following a five-wicket victory over Berkswell.

The Sandwell Park side, who will finish the season against Kidderminster Victoria, won the league with a game to spare following an impressive batting performance by skipper Kadeer Ali and Brinder Phagura.

But Saturday proved to have mixed emotions for the local sides with Walsall, who have won the title seven times since Dartmouth's last victory, finally relegated to Division One after losing to Shrewsbury. For Dartmouth though, the only thing that mattered was celebrating after initially bowling out Berkswell for 213 with with Arslan Shafiq picking up 3-18 for the home side.

In reply, a stand of 109 for the second wicket between Kadeer Ali (67) and Brinder Phagura (61) laid the foundations for Dartmouth's charge to victory.

Mick Corcoran, club spokesman, said: "It has been a fantastic season for us. Everyone connected with the club is absolutely delighted and we had a little party on Saturday which went down very well.

"We didn't expect to do as well as we have this year but we have only lost one game of cricket which perfectly sums up the achievement."

Chasing an imposing Shrewsbury total of 267 to keep their faint survival hopes alive, Walsall men made a brave attempt before closing on 243-7.

Tom Cox hit a superb unbeaten 120 in the Shrewsbury innings with David Powles taking 3-49 and Josh Bowker 3-64 for Walsall who eventually fell 25 runs short after David Powles (70), Ben Cox (61) and James Middleton (48) tried to fight back.

Walmley, who were the only side who could be caught by Walsall, crashed to a 99 run defeat at Brockhampton who scored 236-9 from their 50 overs.

Kidderminster Victoria leap-frogged Dorridge with a five wicket win at the John Woolman Ground.

Michael Hill took 5-19 as Dorridge were dismissed for 166 with Andy Wing not out 47. But Kidderminster eased to victory with Craig Wood (57no).

Relegated Himley folded to 125 all out against Barnt Green despite 54 from Stuart Edge.

Marathon success for club runners

AFTER a quiet few weeks it was back with a bang as athletes from Dudley Kingswinford pulled on their vests and travelled to various parts of the country to put their training to the test.

A huge contingent journeyed the short distance to Wolverhampton for their Marathon Events, Kevin Duckworth running the full marathon distance and coming home in eighth place in 2.58.21, gaining automatic qualification for the London Marathon.

There were plenty of personal bests and prizes at the half marathon distance with Ben Foster claiming fourth in 1.14.53,.

Rob Sannwald ran a PB of 1.24.45 in 16th, Paul Richards claimed first MV50 in 1.26.40 in 23rd, Simon Hughes ran 1.32.13 for 44th, Helen Tromans finished 53rd in 1.33.28 to claim second lady and first in her age group.

Graham Wildgoose ran a PB of 1.33.56 in 56th, Malcolm Pillar claimed first MV65 in 89th place in 1.38.16, Mark Judge clocked 1.39.29 in 99th, Helen Davies was 208th in 1.49.38 and Roger Beddard claimed 3rd MV60 in 1.49.55.

Defence holds out to keep Yeltz at bay

Halesowen Town 0 Workington 1

A bumper Non League Day attendance of 768 packed into the Grove but Halesowen failed break down a resolute Workington defence.

It was a solitary second-half goal which sent the recently relegated Cumbrians home with all three points.

The Yeltz started brightly and the visitors had an 11th minute let off when Elliott Turner fired in an excellent shot from the edge of the area only to see it rebound off the inside of the post even with goalkeeper Jonny Jamieson beaten.

Football

Home goalkeeper Matt Sargeant then saved low down after Scott Allison whipped in a 14th minute free-kick and a 27th minute header from Lee Andrews was cleared off the home goal-line.

After half-time, Turner hit a promising free-kick againstWorkington's defensive wall and Robert Thompson-Brown's clever cross was cleared to safety.

But both sides cancelled each other out for long periods with the game presenting few clear-cut goal-scoring opportunities and the deadlock remained.

However, Matt Tymon snatched Workington's solitary 65th minute winning goal with a far post tap-in.

The goal came after Sargeant saved Tymon's initial effort and Connor Thomson's follow-up was also kept out.

Sargeant was again called into action when he then had to tip another 20-yard Thomson shot at goal over the home bar.

In the later stages Halesowen launched a series of long deliveries in an attempt to rescue the game.

However, the predictable approach failed to really trouble the solid Workington central defence and they held on to their single goal lead despite the Yeltz best efforts.

After a long throw-in from Tom Tonks fell for substitute Ben Haseley to chip just wide in the 81st minute, workman-like Workington were soon celebrating their first away win for 17 months.

Halesowen Town: Sargeant; Green, Charlton (Hull 89), Turner, Kettle, Tilt (c), Bragoli, Tonks, Christie (Haseley 77), Thompson-Brown, Lait (Long 67).

Unused Subs: MacKenzie, Griffiths.

Workington: Jamieson; Simpson (May 86), Rowntree, Andrews, Wordsworth (c), Skelton (Smith 58), Allison, Hindmarsh, Tymon (Coleman 77), Wright, Thomson.

Unused Subs: Telfer, Wainwright.

Referee: Grant Taylor

Attendance: 768

Heathens getting set to choose their rivals

Cradley's Gary Patchett, centre, with team boss Will Pottinger, left, and co-promoter Nigel Pearson.

CRADLEY are expected to reveal their choice of opponents for the play-offs this weekend.

The Heathens, who have finished top of the National league table for the fourth time in five seasons, will have first pick for their semi-final.

And they have booked Monmore Green for the home leg on Tuesday week, September 23 with Coventry and Mildenhall already secure in the top four – Kent and King's Lynn will battle it out for the last spot. Heathens co-promoter Gary Patchett has paid tribute to the riders who have represented the club over the past five seasons.

In his programme notes for Tuesday's Knockout Cup semi-final with Coventry, he also underlined the management's desire to take the club up should it become possible.

He said: "When you think about it, finishing top four times in five seasons is a fantastic achievement and I must pay tribute to each and every rider that has pulled on the Heathens race jacket in the last five years but none more so than the current crop. These are a very special bunch of lads.

"Until last season, of course, whilst we had finished top of the regular season table we had, for one reason or another, come up short at the most important time."

Claudio pledges future to Baggies

CLAUDIO Yacob has pledged his future to Albion after talks with boss Alan Irvine.

The 27-year-old Argentinia midfielder attracted interest from Eastern Europe and had a poor pre-season.

He was expected to move on during the summer, but has now had a change of heart and put it all behind him ready to focus on the Baggies' cause again.

"Claudio has been fantastic because he came in and said to me he's settled," said Irvine.

"We had a very casual chat and he just said 'I've been unsettled and my head has been unsure what's happening, but now I'm completely focused and I can just get on with being the best I can be'.

"So he knows he's going to be here and he can now work in a more settled way. It's unsettling for players when there's speculation about whether they're going or not. We saw it with Craig Dawson.

He was expecting to move and it was only after he realised he wasn't going anywhere that he was able to settle mentally. There's so much on the mental side that affects players' performances."

Tipton to go on in Vase run

Tipton 2 Hinckley 1

A young Tipton Town side progressed to the next round of the FA Vase.

Tipton took the lead in only the eighth minute through Jordan Harrison.

And Hinckley were coming more and more into the play until the 29th minute when home skipper John Haynes's corner beat defenders on the line to creep into the corner of the net for 2-0.

Visiting skipper, Luke Richards went close to pegging the home side back in the 35th minute, driving inches wide of the home goal but six minutes before the break, Hinckley punished some untidy Tipton defending to pull a goal back through Mark Bellingham.

Young set sail with local club

AROUND 200 local youngsters enjoyed getting afloat at Himley Hall Sailing Club this summer thanks to the Wolverhampton Police Sportivate Sailing Scheme and RYA OnBoard.

More than 80 young people aged 11 to 22 have taken advantage of four separate Sportivate-funded sailing programmes, while more than 130 youngsters have tried sailing through a new formal partnership with Ellowes Hall Sports College.

Tony Sutton, Himley Hall SC Commodore, said there has been a youthful buzz around the club this summer. "We were delighted to host the Sportivate sessions and it's been great to welcome so many new young faces to the club. "

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Thirds win the season opener

DUDLEY Kingswinford rugby's third team won their season opening fixture over Chaddesley Corbett's first team 39-7 in the first round of the North midlands cup.

Behind at half time 7-5, DK showed a lot of spirit and energy to eventually run out winners.

After 15 minutes, DK began to find holes in the Chaddesley Corbett defence and it was DK's turn to exert pressure but after 30 minutes with the score still 0-0 a long kick out of defence saw DK's full back spill the ball, which was collected by the chasing Chaddesley players who ran through unopposed to score.

DK responded immediately and after sustained pressure on the Chaddesley line a break down the blind side saw young Reece Davis score in the corner. The second half showed the superior fitness of DK tell with them dominating the lineout.

Some well executed moves and fine individual performances saw the score board ticking over throughout the second half.

DK's backs scored five of the six tries, with Joey Kennedy at fly half and Young Brown at fullback/scrum half impressive. DK are at home against Church Stretton this weekend.

James' double delights Wulfs

AFC Wulfrunians 3
Black Country Rangers 1

AFC Wulfrunians progressed to the second qualifying round of the FA Vase after a 3-1 victory over Black Country Rangers at Castlecroft Stadium.

James Skedgel nipped in to divert the opener past the Rangers keeper shortly before half time .

Skedgel latched on to a Craig Gregg flick on before crashing a shot past Booth to extend Wulfs' lead.

Rangers, to their credit, refused to roll over and pulled a goal back within three minutes when substitute Nicky Turton produced an excellent lob over the keeper from just outside the area.

Wulfs had their own supersub, however, as they increased their lead in the 75th minute as Jamie King volleyed a right-footed shot past the keeper .

Tividale are a little Mickle-overwhelmed

Tividale FC 1 Mickleover Sports FC 3

Football

TIVIDALE'S unbeaten start in Division One South of the Northern League ended in disappointing fashion at the hands of Mickleover Sports.

Andrew Dales hit a well-taken hat-trick with the three rare moments of quality in the entire contest.

It took the visitors to The Beeches just two minutes to get in front when Dales took advantage of a poor punch from Tividale keeper Charles Price.

He pounced on the loose ball before lobbing it into the unguarded net from the edge of the box. Tividale failed to respond and it was Mickleover that enjoyed more possession.

They doubled their lead after 25 minutes when Dales hit a fierce dipping effort over Price from just outside the area.

It took the home side until the 41st minute to create their first real effort as forward Karl Edwards dragged a long range shot wide of the post.

Dales' two moments of quality and the hard-working efforts of Sports' Simeon Oshosoke was the only difference as the half drew to a close.

Tividale started brighter in the second half as they looked for a way back into the game.

On 53 minutes, Jazz Luckie beat two men on the corner of the area but then scuffed his rushed effort past the near post. However, despite a good spell of possession, Tividale failed to create any real openings.

In fact, neither side worked the opposition goalkeeper until Dales completed his hat-trick and put the game beyond Ian Long's men in the 74th minute. Substitute Walshe collected the ball and fed the Mickleover wideman who made no mistake as he slid the ball post the out-rushing Price.

Tividale did pull one back on the 80th minute mark when substitute Danny Ashton bundled the ball home after good work down the left flank by fellow substitute Nigel Penney.

The assistant referee adjudged the ball had crossed the line despite the defenders' efforts to hack the ball clear. The goal proved only to be a consolation strike as Tividale's unbeaten start was halted.

DEJA VU FOR DK IN OPENING LOSS

Sandbach RFC 74 Dudley Kingswinford RFC 7

Rugby

WITH a new season the DK faithful travelled to Sandbach RFC, hoping the memories of last season could be expunged at level 5.

This was DK's first visit to this extremely welcoming and well-organised rugby club in the heart of Cheshire.

The DK team, under Carl Douglas, had much the same playing personnel as last season, other than Ollie Shakespeare who had returned to the club after a couple of years travelling the world.

The game played on an excellent pitch kicked-off with the sharper more streetwise Sandbach side taking the game to Dudley.

Within 20 minutes they had scored four well-taken tries, courtesy of some woeful defending and poor kicking out of hand.

Surrendered

The game was tied up and effectively over in the first quarter, during which time DK rarely left their half and surrendered any ball to the opposition before any meaningful rugby could be developed.

The second quarter proved to be more of an even contest as DK clawed their way back into the game. As they strove for parity at the break down they began to develop phases of rugby and two clear opportunities to score were lost as wrong options were taken with the tries went begging.

After the break and after conceding three points to a penalty, DK pressed the opposition line and a fumbled move was intercepted by Ben Elliot the Sandbach full back who ran in from 75 metres.

DK then began to empty their bench and with his first touch Danny Hawkins forced his way over the line to give the side the merest glimmer of hope.

The last quarter of the game however saw Sandbach increase their intensity and their hold on the game. They swept all before them with some flowing movement and support play.

Scoring five more tries in the last quarter of the game.

DK were given a salutary reminder of where they are and what must be done.

Next week's game against Scunthorpe is at home kick off is 3pm..

Dudley Kingswinford RFC: 15 Nick Adams; 14 Dan Smile; 13 Rhodri Williams; 12 Harry Bayliss; 11 T.J. Gordon; 10 Ceiran Pinches; 9 Connah Jones; 1 Arran Hudson; 2 Luke Greenwood; 3 Alex Francis; 4 Ed Parry (Capt), 5 Ollie Shakespeare; 6 Pete Kinight; 7:Matt Squires; 8 Jon Tideswell.

Matt Squires drives in low for DK on what proved to be a miserable result for their opening game

Gareth backing Saido

ENGLAND Under-21s boss Gareth Southgate has paid tribute to Albion star Saido Berahino for battling back from his nightmare end to last season.

Berahino, who has made a bright start to the Baggies' new Premier League campaign.

And the former Villa defender is impressed with the striker's new focus after a positive start to last season gave way to controversy amid a dressing-room bust-up and a national newspaper story exposed him inhaling nitrous oxide.

"The great thing with Saido is if he has had a little dip he is someone that recognises and acknowledges it and then does something about it," said Southgate.

"They are young kids. If everything we did as 18-19-year-olds was as exposed as these lads are then I'm not sure I'd be sitting here today.

"But the spotlight is different now. No one was really bothered what we did.

"They are going to make mistakes.

"I have to say Saido is one who works really hard, he wants to stay out and do extra finishing."

FIFA ready to trial TV replays

A TV replay system – allowing football coaches to challenge a referee's decision – may be trialled next year, FIFA president Sepp Blatter has promised.

The 78-year-old said he wanted coaches to be allowed at least one challenge per half. The trial could happen at next year's FIFA Under-20 World Cup.

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